

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL.

OF

Politics and General Literature.

VOL. I.]

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1823.

No. 6]

MISCELLANEOUS.

—81—

General Summary.

Our Paper of to-day is nearly filled with the Parliamentary Debate in the Budget, brought forward on the 1st of July in the Commons. To many of our Indian Readers this will perhaps appear an unattractive subject. There are others, however, some future Homes perhaps included in the Medical or Military Service of India, who would deem it an unpardonable omission, if the Budget for the year were entirely passed over in our Parliamentary Reports. To please all, we must occasionally trespass on the indulgence of some; but we endeavour to hold the scales with an even hand, and to give to each class of our Readers, as nearly as we can, that which is likely to be most acceptable.

Among the subjects lately discussed in England, the changes in the conditions of commercial intercourse with India are of first rate importance; and we gladly avail ourselves of the kindness of a Friend to introduce to general notice the following Documents, which have been communicated to us for publication.

It appears that the Government at home having allowed that the limitation as to the size of vessels employed in the East India Trade, formed part of the contract between them and the Company, and the sanction of the Court of Proprietors was, therefore, necessary to take off that limitation, the Bill for the regulation of the India Trade has in consequence been postponed till the next session of Parliament.

This was considered a good opportunity to urge the claim of the India Shipping to a full British Registry, and of the Sugars of India to an equalization of duties on home consumption.

Resolutions, therefore, were agreed to, by the persons interested in these important questions, explanatory of their views upon the occasion; and on the subject being brought before the Court of Proprietors on the 9th of June, an animated discussion took place, and the amendments moved by Mr. Forbes, consisting of Resolutions founded on those just alluded to, were adopted by the Court of Directors and carried unanimously.

We lay before our readers, Copies of both the Resolutions. The object is not to yield the point to Government without a reciprocity being given with regard to the registers of India ships, and the duty on India Sugars.

We are further informed that Government have now promised to levy the existing duties for one year only, and to give the question a full and ample discussion in a Parliamentary Committee next sessions.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

That the existing limitation as to the size of vessels employed in the East India Trade is a part of the compact with the East India Company to which the faith of Parliament is pledged.

That this Court cannot consent to the relinquishment of this part of the compact unless reciprocal concessions are obtained by the restoration of East India built Ships to the right of full British Registry, and by the admission of Sugars from British India for home consumption on equal terms with Sugars produced in other Dependencies of the British Empire.

That this Court are induced to adopt these Resolutions not merely on Commercial grounds as affecting the people of the United Kingdom, but on behalf of One Hundred Millions of our fellow subjects in India, whose rights and interests are involved therein, and which it is the bounden duty of the East India Company to project.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL MEETING.

At a Meeting of Merchants, Agents, Civil and Military Servants of the Honorable Company, and others interested in East India Shipping, and the Trade of India, held at the Office of the East India Trade Committee, in Broad Street, on the 18th of June, 1823.

EDWARD FLETCHER, Esq. in the Chair.

The following Resolutions were agreed to:—

1st.—That this Meeting have considered the Bill now pending in Parliament for the regulation of the East India Trade in connexion with the measures in progress for removing the restriction on the trade of the West Indies.

2d.—That this Meeting are decidedly favorable to any measures tending without injustice to others to facilitate the intercourse between Great Britain and British India, and founded on the principle of free competition in Commerce.

3d.—That the measures in question, whilst they affect to have in view that object, and to rest on this principle, are in themselves unjust and inconsistent, by omitting to give a reciprocity to East India Shipping and to East India Sugars with West India Sugars.

4th.—That the Owners of East India Shipping by the Act 55, Geo. 3d, Cap. 116, were deprived of the right previously exercised by them, and now enjoyed by every Colony and Dependency of the British Empire, viz. that of obtaining a General British Register on the production of a Certificate, that the Ship for which it was required was built within such Colony or Dependency.

5th.—That at the time of the passing of the above Act, it was understood that the Trade within the limits of the Company's Charter would be preserved exclusively to the East India Shipping as an equivalent for the loss of the privilege of a general Register.

6th.—That by a legal construction subsequently given to the Act 54, Geo. 3, Cap. 34 the Country trade has been thrown open to British Shipping of 350 Tons and upwards, and by the Bill now in progress through Parliament this limitation is intended to be given up, without any reciprocal stipulation in favour of East India Shipping which remain as heretofore deprived of a general British Register.

7th.—That the Sugars from British India are charged with a duty for home consumption of 10s. per cwt. over and above the duty levied on West India Sugars, and that such additional duty operates to the exclusion of the coarse inferior Sugars of India.

8th.—That the mode by which the Act 1st and 2d, Geo. 4th, Cap. 106, is about to be enforced by the Customs, imposing a further additional Duty of 5s. per cwt. (in all 15s. cwt.) on Bengal White Sugars, by denominating them Clayed Sugars, will ultimately exclude the fine white India Sugars also from the home market.

9th.—That the chief ground on which the West Indians rested their claim to protecting duties, was their being affected by the restrictions of the Colonial System from which the East Indies is exempted.

10.—That this Meeting, always prepared to question the justice and expediency of such protecting duties even during the existence of these Colonial restrictions, now that the wisdom of the Legislature has relieved the West Indies from all the practical injuries occasioned thereby, must consider themselves justly entitled to call for the repeal of the said protecting duties.

11th.—That the claims of the West Indies arising from their alleged investment of capital in the cultivation and manufactures of Sugar, can be justly preferred by the older Colonies only, certainly not Demerara, and if admissible in any shape are equally valid against every part of the British Empire, as against the East Indies, on whom the burthen should not exclusively fall.

12th.—That as concerns the Commerce with British India by depriving so distant a trade of this most important article of dead weight, by narrowing the means of obtaining returns for British Manufactures and by contracting the channels of remittance for the fortunes of the Civil and Military Servants of the Company, and others the exclusion of Indian Sugars from the home market, will prove most impolitic and injurious, and will affect every class of persons connected with British India, whether Merchants, Manufacturers, Ship Owners or Annuityists.

13th.—That as concerns the Natives of British India, by depriving them to the best market for a great and valuable production of their soil by impeding the natural course of their industry, already diverted from their Native Manufacturer in consequence of the exclusion of those fabrics from the home market by heavy duties, and above all by preventing the development of the vast resources of British India by British skill and capital, the exclusion of East India Sugars is equally impolitic and unjust.

14th.—That by preventing that mutual interchange of respective commodities by which alone a profitable Trade between two Countries is maintained by enhancing the price of the raw material to the British Refiner, and by narrowing in consequence the consumption of so important an article as Sugar, the exclusion of East India Sugars injures the growing trade with India, impedes the progress of our Refiners, and affects the comforts of every class of the community.

15th.—That this Meeting earnestly call upon the Court of Proprietors, as the natural protectors of British India, to insist on a reciprocity of advantages being granted to East India Shipping and East India Sugars, before they concede any part of their chartered rights.

16th.—That this Meeting pledge themselves to use every exertion to obtain these objects, and they confidently appeal to the Merchants, Manufacturers, and Ship Owners interested in the India trade, to the Civil and Military Servants of the Company, and lastly, to the great body of the people for their support, in a cause so just and so universally important.

(Signed) E. FLETCHER, Chairman.

Speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—The speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was closely examined by Messrs. Maberly, Ellice, Ricardo, and Brougham. Mr. Maberly said the first thing which struck him in the estimate of the probable amount of the income and expenditure for 1823, which the Right Hon. Gentleman had introduced into his speech, was, "that in the opinion of his Majesty's Ministers, we had arrived at the extreme point to which the reduction of our expenditure could be carried; for he had taken the Army, the Navy, the Ordnance and the Miscellaneous Services, every thing but the interest of the debt at exactly the same amount as they were in the present year."—Mr. Maberly proceeded to point out various branches of the Public Expenditure which might easily be diminished, commencing with the Collection of the Revenue. Mr. Ellice observed, with respect to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Sinking Fund, "that it did certainly appear there was a

surplus apparently on the amount of about five millions—but how was it made up? In the first place by two and a half millions taken from the dead weight; in the next of 1,800,000*l.* either borrowed in actual money of the East India Company, or of Stock, on which they had formerly paid the Dividends, and on which the public were in future to pay them, a new charge being created on the Consolidated Fund of 700,000*l.* per annum for this object! and, lastly, by an addition, admitted in all his shuffling by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of one million to the unfunded debt in Exchequer Bills: In this way the whole surplus, or rather more, was accounted for, and in the same way they would find the account would stand in the ensuing year. Then came the serious addition to the unfunded debt, to pay off the dissentient holders of Five per Cent. Stock. Was it wise after all their previous experience, to continue, merely for the gratification of the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, this system of bolstering up the Funds, by raising money to redeem Stock at 80 or 81, which they might again have to fund at a lower price? With respect to the diminishing our Funded, while we increased our Unfunded Debt, Mr. Ricardo observed, "if he were called upon for an opinion, he should recommend a diametrically opposite course of proceeding."

We may observe in passing, that however much we agree with Mr. Maberly as to the misgovernment or mal-administration of Ireland, we think he attached too much importance to the matter of absentees. If Ireland were as it ought to be, the absence of Landholders would no more be felt there than in any other country.—A judicial system altogether unfit for Irish society and various other causes have hitherto prevented the improvement of that country, and the application of capital to the soil; and the wretched cottage system has called into being, at least the double of the hands that would be required under an improved system of Agriculture. How could these hands be disposed of were Ireland to be parcelled out in farms of not less than one hundred acres, the smallest size compatible with any thing like tolerable Husbandry? It is not possible for the Landholders to find them in work in such a case, were there not to be a single Absentee. The introduction of manufactures might indeed do much, and if the country should ever become tranquil, we have no doubt that the cheapness of labour will draw manufacturers to the South of Ireland. In the course of time proper employment might be found for perhaps a greater population than the present.

The difficulty of disposing of a great population has been experienced in other countries besides Ireland. An intelligent writer of Baden states, that in several of the wine districts on the Rhine, the land might be employed to more advantage to the owners, in a different species of cultivation, but the vine culture employs three times as many hands as any other, and it would be impossible to dispose of the superfluous hands.

We do not see why an Irish landlord should be more bound to reside on his property than an English or a Scots landlord. These are matters which ought to be left to individual inclination. It is different with a Clergyman.—It is his duty to reside in his parish, and it is positively criminal in him to abandon his charge.

But when the commerce of land is free, it is the return, and the return alone that is taken into consideration. A man buys without scruple land in different parts of the three kingdoms without, of course, intending to reside on all his purchases. The notions of a feudal age have been, in this case, improperly transferred to a very different one.—*Morning Chronicle.*

Successes of the Greeks.—We have received the following Letter from Zante, under cover from Ancona, announcing the capture of Patras, &c. after some severe fighting, terminating in brilliant victories in favor of the Greeks:—

"Zante, June 15.—An Austrian Vessel being on the point of departure for Ancona, I avail myself of the same to forward the present, as you will probably get it quicker than through the regular post. I have to inform you, that the CHARTIERRE Brig of War, Capt. Eden, arrived here yesterday, from Corinth and Patras, and sailed again this morning, for Corfu. It appears

certain she brings accounts of great importance as respects the affairs of the Turks and Greeks in the Morea. From what I have been able to learn, it appears that the Fortress of Patras has at length been taken by the Greeks on the 11th inst. and subsequently the Castle of Morea, after a severe and decisive Battle between Colocotroni, the Greek Field-Marshal, and Yousouff and Mehmet, Pashas. It is well known that Colocotroni had been besieging Patras for upwards of two months, and that he had under his orders about 12,000 men; about three weeks since a French Bombarde touched here on her way from Marseilles for the Morea, having fifteen Officers on board to enter the Greek service; it appears they joined Colocotroni, and about the same time that General was reinforced by 3,000 Greeks from Gastouni, under Georgio Sessini. Several previous skirmishes had taken place between the Greeks and Mehmet and Yousouff Pashas, who had under their orders about 7000 men, mostly from Constantinople, but there was no decided advantage gained on either side. On the 11th the two Pashas united their Forces, and came into the plain of Patras; Colocotroni was prepared to receive them, and dispatched Sessini's Corps of 3000 men to the rear of the Castle of Patras. The Battle took place between St. Andrea, on the seashore, and the Monastery of Gerocomio, about two miles inland; it was sustained with great fury on both sides for several hours; at last, the Greeks succeeded in putting to flight the Turkish Cavalry, which caused such consternation that the rest of the Turks commenced a precipitate retreat, against every effort of the Pashas to prevent the same and abandoned six brass field-pieces. Colocotroni pursued his advantage, and in this juncture the Corps of Sessini advanced from their station, and actually entered the gates of the Fortress of Patras at the time the Turks were doing so; the former having got possession of the gates, the Turks were dismayed on every side, and took the road to the Castle of Morea, distant about six miles, a lodgment in the fortress being effected by the Greeks, the Turks left as the guard surrendered on the arrival of Colocotroni. There were only about three hundred Sultans, and a great number of women and children, all of whom have been respected. It is said there were found about thirty cannon mounted, and several dismounted; a large quantity of ammunition and several cargoes of provisions; also the treasure of Mehmet Pasha, amounting to 30,000 machmoudies in gold. The Greek loss was severe, occasioned principally by the Turkish Artillery; it is estimated that about two hundred men were killed, and upwards of four hundred and fifty wounded; among the latter was Colocotroni himself, by a musket-ball in the arm, but not at all dangerously. The Turkish loss was very great; about seven hundred men were left dead or wounded on the field, and nearly four hundred were made Prisoners in the pursuit. These stated that Mehmet Pasha received two balls in the thigh, and that the Selictar Aga and Dilli Bashas of Yousouff Pasha were killed.

Colocotroni dispatched about 10,000 men the next day to the Castle of Morea, under the orders of his nephew; but the Pashas had resolved not to stand an assault, and had embarked with the remainder of their troops, provisions, ammunition, and families on board the vessels belonging to Yousouff Pasha and the Turkish transports which came from Constantinople. Upon the approach of the Greeks they fired the magazine, but it did not take full effect, only blowing up the interior of the fortress. The Greeks then entered, and the two Pashas sailed; it is supposed, for Karon or Napoli di Romania. We are informed, the English Agent who was resident at the Castle of Morea, left for Lepanto. This is all the information I have been able to collect; and it is considered here as being of the greatest importance to the Greek interests in the Morea. I must confess that the most sanguine advocates of the Greek cause never expected such decided success; and I should have hesitated in giving you the account, had it not come through such a respectable channel. I must now conclude, as the vessel is on the point of sailing. Other news in my next.

Your's most truly,

Dublin Evening Post, July 18.—BATTLE OF MADRID—DEFEAT AND DISCOMFITURE OF THE SPANISH GUARDS—TRIUMPH OF THE CONSTITUTIONALISTS.—In the preceding columns the Reader will find the French Accounts of the recent occurrences in Madrid, and a part of the reflections drawn by the leading Ministerial Journal of England (THE COURIER) on these occurrences. The tone of exaggeration which runs through the French Papers is very manifest; and the eager anticipations of the ruin which they hope will overtake the Friends of Liberty, sufficiently disgusting. We regret to find, THE COURIER, in some measure, participating in these sentiments, and drawing a parallel between the early days of the French Revolution, and the events now in progress in Spain. It affords us, however, unspeakable satisfaction to dissipate these sinister forebodings, and to state, which we do upon the unexceptionable authority of the Spanish Papers of the 8th instant, that the Cause of Liberty has received a most signal and splendid triumph.

It will be seen, that the last authentic accounts, as acknowledged in the London Papers, came down only to the 6th instant. In fact, they are not more recent than those which we were enabled to anticipate in our last. We again anticipate the Packet of this day, by laying before the Public, the only authentic particulars of the Battle of Madrid, which have been received in Ireland. We shall not delay the curiosity of the Public, by any prefatory remark, but proceed at once with a faithful translation of the Spanish Papers, which reached the Office of the DUBLIN EVENING POST last night:—

"London, Monday, July 13, 1822.—Madrid, July 9.—When, at the conclusion of our last number, we declared, that Madrid could not long continue in the state in which it then was, the battalions of the rebellious Guards had already matured their plans for the fulfilment of our prophecy. The quiet that reigned in the City, they attributed to weakness; protestations which they made, and the capitulation which they proposed, were a stratagem to lull us to sleep, and inspire confidence.—They meditated projects of vengeance, and expected, that the chains which they were preparing for us, should be riveted in the blood of their brethren. But Heaven has discovered their iniquitous plans, and the rebels have received the punishment due to perjury—but we proceed to relate all that has occurred:—At three in the morning, the battalions of the Guards which were in the Prado entered Madrid by the gate of Conde-duque; their plan, as it appears, was there to separate themselves into three divisions, one of which was to attack the park of artillery, the other to disarm the National Militia, which was encamped in the Square of the Constitution, and the other to take possession of the Puert del Sol, (the gate of the Sun,) and the roads leading to it. The plan was not ill contrived, it was only necessary to its execution, that the brave soldiers who kept the park of artillery, decline defending it, and that the National Militia should be defeated. Thus it happened, that of the three projects, only the third could be executed; but the occupation of that post, not being supported by the success of either part of their design was of no value to them, and rendered their subsequent defeat the more disastrous. The battalion destined to attack the park of artillery, dispersed, from what motive is not known; at hearing the first guns fired in the street of La Luna, and the exhortations of the officers were insufficient to restrain the soldiers, who, wishing to retreat, it appears, by the way they entered, dispersed in disorder through the woods of La Monja.

"In this dispersion, Don Louis Mon, an Officer of the Guards, was taken prisoner. He offered his watch and twelve ounces of gold to the Peasant who detained him, but the disinterested patriot refused, and conducted him to the park of artillery.

"The division which attacked the Square of the Constitution displayed great courage, but they had to deal with enemies worthy not only to combat with them, but with the first Soldiers of Europe. The Rebels paid for their rashness in dying by the hands of the heroic National Militia. After a short contest they fled, and were pursued along the road leading to the Palace, strewn the way with their carcases. The presumption of these

two divisions having been chastised on the spot, it remained to dislodge that which entirely occupied the Puerta del Sol, and whose vanguard had fortified itself in the house of Correos, where they perceived the enormous disproportion of their force. At the coming up of the Grenadiers, and six Casadores, of the Militia, and of a part of the Cavalry, under the command of General Ballasteros, these factious Rebels, after a short contest, threw away their muskets, and fled in disorder from the murderous fire which was opened upon them from the cannon.

"In the mean time faithful, the Guards who were in the park of artillery, made themselves masters of the horses, and fortified the stables against any attack from the rebellious Guards. Things were in this state when a Deputation from the Insurgents passed to the Hall of the Cortes, in which the Permanent Deputation were then sitting, in company with certain Members of the City Corporation offering to surrender their arms.

"The result was, that in four hours after, the two battalions which had occupied the palace, retired with their arms, one to Leganes and the other to Vicalviro, and those of the Prado, who had fled thither, retired without arms to quarters allotted to them.

"Thus it is evident, that though the contagion had spread very extensively among the Guards, there were many who followed upon compulsion, or from a false sense of honor, the party of their seducers. Many of them, however, presented themselves immediately, and passed over to their quarters with acclamations for the Constitution.

"Others of them, without doubt, distrusting the generosity of their Conquerors, or accused by their consciences of past crimes, had the temerity to continue the contest, and commenced a running fire near the Gate of La Vega. They were pursued, however, by the National Militia, who put them to flight, and captured many of them. At this moment the wounded and the prisoners are arriving in great numbers.

"We cannot with certainty announce the number of killed and wounded in the different encounters. The number of the National Militia does not, however, exceed fifty—a loss extremely small, considering the importance of the victory, but a very sensible one, when it is considered that the Militia is composed of Landowners, Merchants, Artizans, and Fathers of Families, who have sacrificed themselves to defend our Liberties. All those who were present at the encounters of the morning, agree that no Troops of the Line ever fought with more spirit and courage than the National Militia.

"In our next Number we hope to give all particulars of this memorable day, as we shall be able to obtain them correctly."

From the preceding statement, it will be seen that the criminal intentions of the Rebels have been most nobly frustrated by the heroism of the People; and our pleasure, we own, is not a little heightened by the deep disappointment which the news will have caused among the Ultras in France, and the Serviles in England. What tip-toe expectations—what glowing anticipations they indulged, in the happy return of the Inquisition and absolute Despotism. What a pity it is that the magnanimity of the Spanish People will not allow them to indulge in these most delightful dreams. Even Morillo, upon whom they enulated, and who, they said, had cast a personal affront on General Riego—even Morillo headed the National Militia against the Guards of the King. On the authority of a Private Letter transmitted to us with the Madrid Papers, we are enabled to state the names of the Generals who had taken part against the Guards. These were, Morillo, who led on the Militia, Riego, Ballasteros, Alava, and Zayas.

It is important to bear in mind that all these Officers, though of distinct and very hostile parties in politics, lost sight of all such distinctions in the moment of danger, and united to defend the Constitution. The loss of the Guards is said to have amounted to 300 men.

The Reader will not fail to remark, that in the preceding account the name of the King does not once occur. It is not, therefore, true, as has been reported, that his Majesty put himself at the head of the Militia. Nor, on the other hand has he taken

part with the Rebels. Like King Arthur in *Ten Thousand* his Majesty was resolved to keep in a whole skin. The next intelligence from Madrid will be very important, inasmuch as it will, no doubt, describe the consequences which must result from this conflict. If it shall appear that his Majesty abetted the Rebels, as the former accounts would lead us to suspect, we do not see how it is possible for the Spanish People to continue under his rule. The Public may be assured, that as we have hitherto taken the lead in communicating the earliest intelligence to the People of this Country, we shall continue to do so. On our parts, no expense or exertion shall be spared, in order to render *THE DUBLIN EVENING POST* still more worthy of the station it has so long occupied at the Press of Ireland.

We subjoin a Letter from our regular Correspondent, which the bibbers of Port Wine will find well worthy their attentive perusal:—

"London, July 15, 1822.—You will doubtless have attended to the question put by Mr. Stuart Wortley to the Marquis of Londonderry, respecting the increase of duties on British Goods imported into Portugal. The answer of the Noble Lord was, as a matter of course, prepared, for Mr. Wortley is his particular friend, and constant as well as most efficient supporter, so that leaving ordinary courtesy aside, there was no surprise in the case. The Marquis of Londonderry said, that he should not wonder if the result of the negotiation now on foot turned out to be unsatisfactory, and that then his Honorable Friend might bring the subject before the House. The fact is, that the Portuguese Representative at this Court, has endeavoured to exonerate his Government from the responsibility of increasing the Duties, and therefore, to avoid making reparation, by throwing the onus upon the Cortes. His reply has been, "that in Representative Governments the Executive had not a control over the acts of the Legislative Assemblies, and are obliged to abide by the Laws as they were passed. In the present instance the Cortes had imposed the additional duty, and his Government could only enforce it." On these grounds, therefore, an unsatisfactory result is anticipated to pending the negotiations, and on the same grounds has Mr. Wortley been encouraged to bring the subject before the House, should that anticipation prove correct. I understand it is the intention of Ministers to retaliate in exact accordance with the reply of the Portuguese Embassy. This, like Portugal, is a Representative Government, and our Legislature will be made use of forthwith to double the duty on Portugal Wines, when the Cortes may take its alternative. You will perceive this is an adoption of the United States policy on similar occasions.—When Foreign Powers alter their Commercial Regulations with America—America makes the same alteration in its Commercial Regulations with them, and on that principle continues to act subsequently. Even if I had not excellent authority for this information, it is so evidently, what the reason of the case dictates, and the answer of the Marquis of Londonderry suggests, that its correctness cannot be called in doubt.

There is but one opinion here respecting the news from Spain, which has caused so much interest and anxiety. All think and say that Ferdinand will, in the end, come to the block! The mutiny of the Royal Guards is only a step to it. The proceedings of the Military and the Cortes before that event, all treaded the same way. The disbanding of the regular Troops and the Guards, to substitute Militia, were mere preliminaries to the object in view. The present mutiny will most probably, hasten the crisis, but less than civil war and bloodshed in abundance cannot be expected. These I give you as the general opinion among the political circles here best able to judge. Comparisons too are drawn between what is now passing in Spain and what passed in France at the beginning of the Revolution. For my own part, I confess, it seems as if Ferdinand's Throne was on a slippery ground, and his head not very firm. Should that be so what will be the effect on the rest of Europe?!!! France, Naples, Piedmont, Austria, Germany, &c. are mere trembling masses of oppressed insurrection, and their Governments endeavouring to stand *cum se defenso*. A civil war in Spain would set the whole on fire, and Heaven only knows when the conflagration would stop. In every quarter things wear a frightful aspect."

PARLIAMENTARY.

—85—

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, JULY 1, 1822.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose to address the house, but spoke in so low a tone of voice, that it was impossible, in many places, to collect his observations with exactness. He commenced his speech by declaring, that it might be thought requisite for him to make some apology to the house for submitting to it the general state of the financial operations of the year, before it had acceded to a large portion of the estimates which it was generally thought necessary to pass previously to any winding up of the statement of the public expenditure. It had generally been deemed proper to go through the whole of the votes of supply before the ways and means were submitted to the house, containing the statement of the operations of finance by which they were to be substantiated. He was obliged, however, to make that statement on the present occasion, owing to the late period to which the session had been protracted by various circumstances. Each side of the house mutually charged the other with being the cause of delay; but without staying to inquire to which in them it ought to be attributed, he should take it for granted that they were all agreed to let the public business proceed henceforth with as little interruption as possible. He could assure the house that his statement could not be deferred any longer without great inconvenience to the public interest. In the first place, he thought it desirable that the general statement of finance should be submitted to Parliament before the arrival of that period of the year in which its members generally left their residences in London for the country; and in the second place he had to inform them, with reference to his public duty, that it was necessary that the ways and means should be voted before the 5th of July. The house was aware that the sinking fund, according to the resolution, passed in 1819, and confirmed in the present session, was only voted from the 5th of July in one year to the 5th of July in the next. Now the sinking fund for 1821 would expire within a few days; and unless a vote to continue it were passed before the expiration of that time, it would be impossible, without much irregularity and great difficulty, for the commissioners to prevent the loss of a quarter. If no vote were passed before the 5th of July, the commissioners would be bound to apply a fund of three or four millions, which they now had in hand, in a manner which would not only be highly inconvenient to themselves, but which would also create an irregular purchase of stock by no means desirable. He should therefore, in the statement he was going to make, state the expenditure according to the estimates laid before Parliament, although the whole of them had not yet obtained its sanction; taking care, however, to observe the constant rule and practice of Parliament, that the grant of no sum should be made that was not absolutely required for the public service, and leaving, with all due constitutional jealousy, in the discretion of the Crown, no sum of unappropriated money, which, even though it were not misplaced, would still be dangerous from the precedent it would establish. He should, therefore, without any further apology, proceed to ask for a sum which would cover all the services of the year, as well those which had been sanctioned by Parliament as those which had not; and in doing so, he could assure them that he was not asking for a single farthing more than was necessary. Having now stated to the house his reasons for bringing on the budget at a time when several of the services of the year were yet under consideration, he should next proceed to state the amount of the different votes, and the ways and means by which he proposed to defray them. The sum wanted for the military service of Great Britain and Ireland amounted to 7,925,000*l.*; of this sum 6,530,000*l.* had been already voted, and the remainder had not. The naval services amounted to 5,400,000*l.*, and had all been voted. So had the ordnance services, amounting to 1,700,000*l.*—761,000*l.* had been voted for Great Britain, and 59,000*l.* for Ireland, besides which 100,000*l.* had also been voted to Ireland in a committee of supply. The remainder, amounting to above 790,000*l.* was to be found among the estimates, which at present lay upon the table. There was also on the table a charge of 310,000*l.* for the out pensioners of Greenwich Hospital; 1,200,000*l.* for interest upon Exchequer bills; and 201,000*l.* for payments of services charged upon the aids of the year, but not specially voted. Thus the amount of services already sanctioned by parliament was about 15,300,000*l.*, and there remained for services for which the estimates had not been voted 2,500,000*l.*, making a grand total of 17,815,000*l.* But there had likewise been made during the present session considerable advances for the reduction of the public debt. There was a charge of 290,000*l.* for sinking fund on Exchequer bills, and of 2,501,000*l.* for the re-payment of the holders of 5 per cents. of which 23,000*l.* for the re-payment of the holders of Irish 5 per cents. remained yet to be voted.

There was likewise to be voted 200,450*l.* for the deficiency of the ways and means in 1821. He would here enter into an explanation to show that he had not been negligent of this duty last year, when he left a deficiency to the amount he had just stated. Gentlemen who had attended to the debate of the last year, would recollect that he had at that time submitted to the committee that a deficiency was likely to arise in consequence of some circumstances which were likely to affect the outpensioners of Greenwich Hospital. The whole expense both of the in-pensioners and outpensioners of Greenwich Hospital had been defrayed, up to the last year, out of the funds of the hospital itself. A great part of these funds was vested in stock, and arose out of the share of prize-money to which it was entitled during war. Now, as there was no prize-money coming into its coffers during a time of peace, its funds had become so reduced that the accountant general of the hospital had found it necessary to state to Government his opinion that no payments could be lawfully made from it to the outpensioners, and that the expense of supporting them must thenceforward devolve upon the public. That opinion was referred to the consideration of the crown lawyers; and though their decision upon it was not known at the time he made his last year's financial statement, he had still felt it his duty to state that a deficiency was likely to arise, and that a demand of the nature he had just mentioned was very likely to be made upon the public. As soon as that demand was made, he proposed an act of parliament to enable him to issue exchequer bills to meet it. About 260,000*l.* had been so paid; and an explanation of the services for which the remainder was required would be found upon their table. Now, if these three last mentioned sums, amounting together to 3,251,450*l.*, and all employed for the reduction of the debt incurred, were added to the 17,815,000*l.* of which he had before spoken, it would appear that the total sum wanted for the services of the year was 21,106,450*l.* To make good this amount, he should now propose his ways and means, stating at the same time that part of them had been already agreed to by parliament. In the first place, annual taxes to the amount of 3,000,000*l.* had been already voted. These taxes last year amounted to 4,000,000*l.*, but they had been reduced this year to 2,600,000*l.* by the reduction of the annual malt duties, which formed a large constituent part of the annual taxes of last year. The next item to which he came in his budget was 1,500,000*l.* reserved upon the tea duties, and 200,000*l.* upon the lottery. (*hear, hear, from the Opposition benches.*) There was some objection, it appeared to this latter mode of raising money; he wished that those who objected to it would point out to him some other mode less objectionable of raising it. The next item was, old stores 151,000*l.* That item last year amounted to 103,400*l.*; but, as it was one that arose from the general equipment of our forces, it was evident that it would diminish during peace, from time to time, until it reached the average price of consumption. In the last year's budget, they had had the advantage of 500,000*l.*, the surplus pecuniary indemnity payable by France. He was not able to transfer this sum any longer to the credit of the country. The accounts of the manner in which it had been expended last year he had not yet been able to present to Parliament; but he trusted that he should be able immediately after the commencement of the next session to show the full appropriation of it. That was, however, 110,000*l.* to be repaid by the commissioners for issuing Exchequer-bills for public works. These sums added together amounted to 4,961,000*l.* To complete, however, the supply for the service of the year, he proposed to contract a sinking fund loan of 7,500,000*l.* And here he thought it might be as well to explain why he did not intend to take a greater sum under the present circumstances. Last year 13,990,000*l.* had been voted from the sinking fund alone; but this year 7,500,000*l.* would answer his purpose. He would explain to the house how that happened. In the last year the sinking fund loan had been 13,000,000*l.*; in the two preceding years, 12,000,000*l.*; and now, he again repeated, he intended to reduce it to 7,500,000*l.* His reasons for so doing were these—In the first place, his wish was that the sinking fund for the present year, instead of extending from the 5th July 1822, to the 5th July, 1823, should only extend to the 5th April, 1823. His reason for this was, that in the next session of parliament he intended to propose to its consideration a measure for a general revision of the sinking fund. (*hear.*) He should not therefore like to tie up the commissioners by a strict appropriation to so late a period as the 5th July; and for that purpose he limited his sinking fund loan to 7,500,000*l.* If they supposed four quarters to be taken at the same general amount, it would amount to 10,000,000*l.*; and one reason why he did not wish it to amount to more was, that a great reduction of the nominal amount of the sinking fund would take place at the end of the session. The house, by an act of this session had appropriated 3,000,000*l.* to the payment of the pensions and the half-pay, which it was very evident would have an effect upon the nominal sinking fund. The right honourable gentleman then proceeded to state what that effect was, and entered into some details to prove his assertions, but unfortunately they were completely inaudible in the gallery. He referred to the following paper in explanation of his positions:—

Charge in respect of the Additions to the Public Funded Debt of the United Kingdom, created for the Service of the Year 1822, calculated on the principle directed per act 53 Geo. 3, cap. 35, sect. 5.

Money Borrowed		Capitals created.	Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Total.
£	From the Sinking Fund in Great Britain.				
7,350,000					
150,000	Ditto do in Ireland				
7,500,000					
	Terms:—				
	100l. 3 pr. cent. Red.	£ s	£ s d	£ s d	£ s
	Annuity, 24l 10s 7d	7,500,000 0	225,000 0 0	75,000 0 0	300,000 0
	3 pr. cent. Cons. An.	1,539,087 10	55,199 12 6	16,396 17 6	73,517 10
		9,539,087 10	280,199 12 6	93,396 17 6	373,587 10

The rate per cent. paid to the commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt £2 14 8½

The rate per cent. paid, including all Charges 4 19 7½

Now, comparing the calculations made in this paper with the sinking fund loan of last year, it would be seen that there was then required 130l. stock for every 100l., whereas in the present year only 124l. had been required. Now, as a matter of public convenience, it might be of little consequence whether the stock was raised at a high or a low price, but it was not immaterial to remark that the increase of the funds made a difference of 6 per cent. in favour of the present year. The right honourable gentleman then read the following paper, and stated from it the sums applicable to the purchase of stock, and the payment of life annuities.

Sums receivable by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt in Great Britain and Ireland, in the year ending 5th July, 1822; and an Estimate of the Sums which will be received by them in the year ending 5th July, 1823, including the Sums set apart to pay Life Annuities, and £1 per Cent. on outstanding Exchequer bills.

	Sums applicable to the		Total.
	Purchase of Stock, and to the Payment of Life Annuities.	Sinking Fund Loans.	
GREAT BRITAIN.			
The year ending July 5, 1822...	£ 4,105,105	£ 19,500,000	£ 16,603,105
1823...	5,039,031	9,750,000	14,788,031
IRELAND, (B. C.)			
The year ending July 5, 1822...	312,228	352,615	664,843
1823...	395,824	297,354	693,178
UNITED KINGDOM.			
The year ending July 5, 1822...	4,415,333	19,852,615	17,267,948
1823...	5,433,855	10,047,354	15,481,209

Note.—The Sinking Fund provided by the East India Company on account of Loan, per 53 Geo. 3. c. 135, is not included in the above statement, and which amounted in the year ending the 5th July, 1822, to 110,820l.

* Note.—Of this sum there will be applied to the service of 1822, 7,500,000l. previously to the 5th April, 1823.

After reading this paper the right honourable gentleman proceeded to say that the next item to which he came in the payment of ways and means was the payments by the East India Company. And here it was fitting that he should enter into some explanation of the pecuniary arrangements recently made between that Company and his Majesty's Government. Some years since, a claim was made by the East India Company on this Government, on account of expenses of various kinds incurred in its behalf; and especially those which it had incurred, in preserving the St. Helena establishment, for the better custody of Buonaparte. Gentlemen would see the amount of that claim, by examining the papers on the table. The claim originally amounted to a sum of 1,000,000l.; which, if interest were granted upon the scale usually allowed, would establish a claim on the part of the Company to

5,000,000l. To that claim, however, a variety of objections was made by the agents of Government, as would be seen by the papers on the table; and a settlement was afterwards adopted, on the only principle which could be adopted between the two parties. Each of them agreed in the arithmetical accuracy of the other's account. But it appeared to the Treasury and its commissioners, that several of the claims of the East India Company were not justified—that some of them had been previously rejected, and that others of them were even then under consideration. On the other hand, a large counter-claim of the public on the Company was disputed by the Company itself. The house would see that the only mode of settling such a dispute between two such parties was by a compromise. Hence the discussion of the question assumed the appearance of a negotiation between two independent states. On the one side was the Company consulting the interest of the proprietors; on the other, the Treasury struggling to prevent any unjust claim from being made upon the public service. The question was therefore submitted to arbitration, and it was thought better by both parties that a sum should be first fixed on by the arbitrators, and afterwards be submitted to the wisdom of Parliament, than that both of them should adhere to their strict rights, on which point no tribunal could decide between them. After much consideration it was thought fair and just to both parties, to allow the East India Company 1,300,000l. on its claim of 5,000,000l. (hear, hear, and a laugh.) He trusted that those who had read the papers would not think the East India Company hardly dealt with. (hear.) He verily believed that the Company was satisfied (hear), and on a review of the papers he thought that Parliament and the public ought to be satisfied also. (laughter and cheers.) After this sum was allowed to be due to the East India Company, the next consideration was to what purpose it should be applied? Here the right hon. gent. declared, that it was most satisfactory to him to state, that it appeared to him to be most just and equitable that it should be applied to the reduction of the loan made to the Company by Government in 1812. In proof of this, he referred to the act of the 52d Geo. III, under which that loan had been made. After reading a considerable portion of this act, but in so low a tone of voice that it was impossible to collect its import, the right hon. gentleman informed the house, that it was afterwards agreed that the East India Company, upon the payment of 557,000l. in addition to the 1,300,000l. allowed to be due to them, should be freed from any future call for the repayment of that loan. It was more convenient to the public service that this sum should be carried to the amount of the present year, than that it should be disposed of in any other manner. By that arrangement, the public would be relieved from all claim on the part East India of the Company, and the East India Company from all claim on the part of the public. Of the 557,000l. agreed to be paid in liquidation of their debt, he must inform the house that 27,000l. had been already paid to the Government, and had been applied by it to the repayment of the holders of 5 per cents., and that the remaining 530,000l. was at present due from the Company to the Government. Now, if to the sums he had mentioned, 2,450,000l. were added, which would be received for the commissioners for payments on account of the half pay and pensions, they would have all his ways and means for the year, except that portion of it that was connected with the unfunded debt. This led him to say a few words upon that important subject. In the year 1821, the Exchequer bills unfunded amounted to 29,000,000l.; the Irish Treasury bills to 1,000,000l., and the bills for public works and churches to 368,330l., making a total of 30,368,330l. Now, turning to the actual amount of the unfunded debt of Great Britain and Ireland, he found that in the year ending the 5th of January, 1822, the Exchequer bills were 231,566,559 and Irish Treasury bills 1,105,161

making a total of 23,661,721

Adding to this sum 3,100,000l., which had been voted during the year for the deficiency of the ways and means of the last year, and for the payment of the holders of 5 per cents.—the respective items of which he had before given—they would have a sum of about 35,000,000l. The increase of the unfunded debt in the last year would therefore, be nominally about 5,331,670l., but in reality not much more than 1,000,000l. if it were considered that part of the 5,000,000l. and odd was expended in renewing old Exchequer bills, and in paying off holders of the 5 per cents., which was equivalent to the extinction of a certain portion of our debt. The right honourable gentleman here expressed a hope that he had made himself intelligible upon the subject; and after stating that he would not recapitulate his items from a fear of fatiguing the committee, proceeded to observe, that he should best discharge his duty by attempting to show the actual amount of our means to meet the expenditure in a less official and technical manner than he had just employed, and without pointing out the specific appropriation of each distinct branch of the revenue. He should assume that the produce of the revenue for the four quarters ending 5th April, 1822, would, if no particular circumstances

Tuesday, January 7, 1823.

—87—

interfered to interrupt, be equal to the four quarters of the year ending 5th April, 1822. Now the Customs for Great Britain for the year ending 5th April, 1822, amounted to 9,145,100*l.*, and for Ireland 1,496,596*l.* making a total of 10,641,707*l.* Excise 26,105,000*l.*, add the Irish Excise 1,111,000*l.* would make a total of 30,396,000*l.*; deduct from this sum the amount of the malt and other duties reduced and repealed, exceeding 2,120,000*l.*, there would remain a total of 28,102,000*l.* He assumed that the post-office up to the July quarter would produce 1,335,000*l.*, the assessed taxes up to same period 7,575,000*l.* in England, and 210,000*l.* in Ireland, making a total of taxes of 7,785,000*l.*, but subject to some deductions. They might be fairly estimated at 7,245,000*l.* The miscellaneous would produce, including Ireland, about 250,000*l.*, which, with the old stores and lottery, would furnish a total for the receipts of the year of 34,363,000*l.* How far the coming quarter of the revenue would bear out the flattering prospect he had held out of it, as compared with the same quarter of last year had been realized, he could not better explain than by stating that the actual payments into the Exchequer up to Saturday last exceeded those of the corresponding quarter of the last year, by 622,000*l.* (Hear, hear.) The sum paid in at this period of the last year was 8,209,000*l.*; at present it was 8,832,000*l.* He had therefore reason to expect the realization of the flattering prospects he had held out; but assuming that the quarter proved equal to the corresponding quarter of last year, owing to the reduced taxation at present, it would be quite enough for his purpose, in his present financial view. Having stated that the receipts of the year may be taken at 34,363,000*l.*, he should recapitulate the expenditure of the country for the same period. The charge on the unredemmed debt of the country would be this year augmented by the grant of annuities (for the 45 years) to the amount of 9,000,000*l.*, making a total of 30,911,000*l.* The interest on Exchequer bills, together with payments for services charged upon the aids of the year, but not specially voted, was about a million and a half. For the army, 7,705,000*l.*; extra expense in Ireland, 220,000*l.*; making a total for the army of 7,925,000*l.*; navy, 5,480,000*l.*; ordnance, 1,200,000*l.*; miscellaneous, 1,550,000*l.*; and under that head, extraordinary, in Ireland, 150,000*l.*; Greenwich Hospital out pensioners, 210,000*l.*; adding these several sums to the 30,911,000*l.* he had already enumerated, there would appear a clear surplus of 3,130,000*l.* for the country: add to this the saving which he would be entitled to reckon on the 5th of April, of 700,000*l.* in the five per cents, and 1,200,000*l.* in the halfpay and pension arrangement, and they would find he had a surplus of 5,000,000*l.* at the end of the year for a sinking fund. Perhaps the house would allow him to take a prospective view of the probable expenditure for the year 1823. Estimating the army at 7,705,000*l.*, provided no extraordinary were required for Ireland, the navy at 5,500,000*l.*, the ordnance at 1,200,000*l.*, the miscellaneous at 100,000*l.* (supposing no excess under that head for Ireland,) and supposing what he felt himself entitled to assume, that the receipts of the revenue and customs next year would equal the amount in the present, he had no doubt that the next year would afford a surplus of 6,142,000*l.*; so that taking the next year's surplus and the present, without any contingent prospects, they had every reasonable hope that the two years taken together would furnish a clear surplus of 10,000,000*l.* (Hear.) He had already touched upon the reduction of the 5 per cents, early in this session, and he could not refrain from taking this opportunity of congratulating both the house and the country upon the satisfactory and most successful manner in which that reduction had been carried into effect. (Hear, hear.) He doubted whether the most sanguine persons could have expected so fortunate a result to the execution of that plan. The experience of past arrangements of a similar character did not certainly entitle them to expect that it would have been effected with such facility and immediate advantage to the country. If any thing could show both the people of England, and those of other countries, the solid foundation of British credit, and the extent of her resources, that plan was well calculated to carry the most convincing impression in every respect, and record their stability throughout every stage of the execution of that important arrangement. Another great arrangement had followed upon the reduction of the 5 per cents, which was also of great importance to the country—he meant the Bank reduction of interest from 5 to 4 per cent. (Hear.) Now both of those arrangements, so far from affecting the stockholder, as was by some predicted, had actually advanced the price of the funds and increased the stockholder's interest. It was clear, therefore, that that class of the community (the stockholders) had no reason whatever to complain of the relief afforded the public, for they had actually profited to the full extent of all reasonable expectations. To Parliament the country stood indebted for all these advantages; to their resolution to support the public credit, all classes were indebted, and the beneficial effects of their perseverance would be daily felt by the community. He would mention a private anecdote, to show the manner in which property had already been operated upon by these arrangements. An estate had been lately sold, by order of the Court of Chancery, at a price more considerable than what was offered short time before; the solicitor in a conversation upon the matter said, that he had given 5,000*l.* more for the estate in consequence of what he deemed its increased value since the Bank reduction of interest. (Hear.) Some thought it would be advisable to force down the operation of the subsisting legal interest by an act of the legislature—he thought such a mode inexpedient, fully concurring, however, in the principle that the regulation of a particular rate of interest by law was quite contrary to the principles of political economy. (Hear, hear.) and that the existing regulation was at best only one to be acquiesced in under existing circumstances (Hear); but he was most decidedly against any further extension of its operation beyond the necessity of the case. Having thus laid the general heads of his arrangements before the house, he should conclude by expressing his readiness to afford any hon. member any further information upon the details which he might desire to possess. He then moved his first resolution for raising 7,500,000*l.* towards the supply of the year.

Mr. MABERLY complained of the manner in which the papers explanatory of the sums in the budget were distributed. A few of them were handed to members just as the debate commenced, so that there was no time to make that proper reference to them which would be useful at the moment. If the right hon. gent. was disinclined to print the papers earlier, and distributing them, so as that the subject could be understood before members came down to the house, it would be much better for him to abandon altogether that partial, inadequate, and unavailable mode of distributing them which was now adopted, and which necessarily precluded members from entering upon the consideration of particular items, and compelled them to abstain from any other than general remarks. From the main topics which the right honourable gentleman had introduced, it was now quite clear that the sinking fund, which he and his colleagues had early in the session declared to be inviolable, was to remain merely the *Acus pectus* for the year, and nothing else (Hear); he was to take from it and put to it, in such a mystifying and unaccountable manner that it was quite impossible to understand how the sinking fund really stood, without moving for specific details, and discussing them in the order in which they were called for. After the sinking fund, the next subject he should glance at was the East India debt, and upon that matter it would seem, from what the right hon. gentleman had said, that the Government were in debt to the East India Company, rather than the latter to the former as was previously asserted. He knew there was necessarily a difficulty in making up that account, owing to the difference between the rate of interest in India for local payments, and that payable at home; but the right hon. gentleman, in regulating the mode of carrying the interest of this account forward, had lost to the country the interest upon 1,500*l.* a year from the consolidated fund. But the most material part of the right honourable gentleman's statement was that in which he estimated for the year 1823, the same amount of expenditure for the country in army, navy, ordnance, and miscellaneous services, as in the present year (1822). From such an estimate it was quite clear that the Government thought they had brought their reductions of expenditure to the lowest point. They were now to be told that they were at the end of their savings, and that except some matters of interest, they must prepare next year to pay the same large sum they had paid this year for their army, navy, ordnance, and miscellaneous, except some alteration for interest on the debt. This was not the way in which the country ought to be treated. (Hear.) Instead of there being such a surplus as had been mentioned, with these draughts upon the public, there ought to be a sum of 9 or 10 millions made annually available for the reduction of the public debt. Early in the session the noble marquis opposite (Lord Londonderry)—(for he would treat him as in reality the finance minister of the country)—declared that they must have a sinking fund of 5,000,000*l.* inviolably kept; that the public faith was grounded upon the integrity of such a fund; and that therefore no reduction of taxation could take place, except so far as could be effected by the reduction of the 5 per cents, without interfering with that essential security for the public which he had already said was indispensable: and yet, notwithstanding this declaration of the noble marquis early in the session, within less than 6 weeks after his declared inviolability of the sinking fund, he came down and declared it was expedient to reduce taxation, although at first he had said that such a reduction would afford no relief. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Maberly) would read, for the information of the house, an extract from a certain speech delivered by a noble lord—he would not say where—(Lord Londonderry's speech last February), and intended to convince the country that no relief could be afforded by taxation; the extract was as follows:—"If the farmer knew but the first principles of the rudiments of political economy, he would find that to expect relief from the repeal of taxes was both fallacious and injurious. Could he obtain such an important concession—could Parliament be induced to listen to fallacious arguments, and to make such a concession to the farmer, by money taken out of the pockets of the public creditor—the farmer would find that no benefit was conferred upon him, he would be degraded from the station which he now held, and in which he contributed to the revenue of the state. But the course of nature decreed that this concession could not strictly to advantage. The farmer was

deluded if he thought that he could be benefited by being separated from the other classes of the community: to be relieved from the pressure of taxation, he would lose the promised advantage by a general increase of produce, which would have the effect of lowering the price; the landlord would take it from him in increased rent, or, from various circumstances, he would be compelled to concede that same high price which it was now his object to gain. Here, then, was the point for the deliberation of Parliament, and the object for which they were to commit a violation of the laws of nature; and this would be the result, if they were really to believe that the agriculturists were to be relieved by a reduction of taxation." Notwithstanding so strong an expression of opinion delivered by a certain person, the noble marquis came down in the month of March, immediately after, and avowed he had made the discovery that a certain reduction of taxation would relieve the agricultural interest, and that he was prepared to make it. The ministers did make the reduction accordingly; and they effected it by the extraordinary plan of throwing a share of the public burdens, to the amount of 2 millions and a half, from the present to the future generation, for 45 years to come. In the interim, however, the reduction of the 5 per cents. was carried into effect, on the full acknowledgment that the sinking fund was not to be touched; and yet immediately after came the other plan, entailing a heavy debt upon posterity, and a direct juggling and meddling with this sinking fund. They were still, it seemed, to have a sinking fund equal to what the noble marquis originally contemplated; he should be glad to learn, in intelligible terms, how such a fund was to be accomplished. When the 5 per cents. were paid off, the public were necessarily entitled to a reduction of taxation. He (Mr. Maberly) always contended, that the taxes ought to be reduced; but he should have gone about accomplishing that reduction in a very different manner—not, indeed, by entailing an unjustifiable amount of debt upon posterity; but by reducing and economizing in the whole expenditure of the country. He thought he should have no difficulty in convincing the house, that no adequate reductions had been made in the expenditure of the country. They would recollect, that in the year 1817, a committee of finance was appointed, who reported that the expenditure for the army, navy, ordnance, and miscellaneous services, ought not to exceed 17,350,000l. Had that recommendation been fulfilled? Not in a single part; for in the years 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, there had been a total excess above the sum fixed in the report of the committee, to the amount of 6,190,000l. But the noble marquis promised that there should be proportionable reductions in 1822, and succeeding years, if peace continued. Was that promise kept? No; for if they looked at the present papers, they would find that in the army, navy, ordnance, and miscellaneous there was an attention paid to the report of the committee of 1817—they would see that 24 millions were expended for the government of the country in the year 1822. Let them try, then, the present estimates with the test laid down by the finance committee of 1817; and they would find, that notwithstanding all the boasted reductions and savings, there was in point of fact only 800,000l. reduced for the country—he spoke in the hearing of the chairman of that committee, and he defied any man to contradict him. Now he could hardly suppose, that if the chairman of the committee of 1817, who had assented to the report of the committee, could have at that time conjectured that in the ensuing years there would have been a speedy saving of 30 per cent. in all the articles of living, he would have considered the sum mentioned in the report, as necessary for the public service, still less could he have imagined that this was all the saving which the Government would effect up to the year 1822. (hear.) Up to the present instant he must contend that no adequate saving had been even attempted by his Majesty's ministers. The chairman of the committee plainly contemplated a reduction; he also expected the alteration in the 5 per cents. and had calculated upon it. Why did not the Government come fairly down, and set their hands to an inquiry into abuses in the public expenditure; there was, for instance, the collection of the revenue, a branch of expenditure in which a very large saving might be effected. (hear.) He knew not what had been done to economise; perhaps a great deal was done, but as yet he remained in ignorance of it. In the excise department, for a collection of 30 millions above 1,400,000l. was paid, making a per centage of more than four and a half (or 4l. 19s.) per cent. he believed. In the customs, for collecting nearly 13 millions, 1,470,000l. was paid; that was at the rate of 13 per cent. (hear.) So that in one department of the public expenditure a greater sum was paid for collecting between 12 and 13 millions than was paid in another for collecting 30 millions. (hear.) Under the head of hackney coaches, for collecting 26,000l. 18 per cent. was paid. (hear, hear.) In the hawkers and pedlars, for collecting about the same sum, about 23 per cent. was paid. So that, looking at the total, it would seem that the average expense of collecting the net revenue of the country was no less than 22 per cent. (hear, hear.) Ought such a system for one moment to remain without inquiry? Was it to be borne by the public, that 22l. must be paid out of every 100l. before it passed into the Exchequer? In the management of what was called the hereditary revenue of the Crown, there was a similar necessity for inquiry. Again, in the colonies, instead of being, as under proper management they ought to be, a source of reve-

nue to the country, they were, on the whole, a source of expense. The commissioner for woods and forests, and an honourable colleague of his in the ministry, were colonial commissioners upon large salaries too large, he contended, for the duties of their office. It might be said that the expense was charged to the colonies, and not at home. What difference did that make? It was still drawn from the pockets of British subjects unnecessarily. Then the Government, in their mode of appointing to public offices, showed an utter disregard to economy—they took no step to ease the dead weight of half-pay and pensions which were chargeable upon the country. (hear.) They went upon no system of filling new offices from the retired list. This would at once be seen upon reference to the returns made in pursuance of orders of the house—in the lottery department returns, for instance, which were not yet printed owing to some errors in the papers, it would be seen in the column of first appointments, that a gentleman, stated to be 47 years of age, was taken into the office, (he repeated, a first appointment) at a salary of 3301. a year. The next appointment was that of a gentleman of 57 years of age; then followed persons of 53, 47, 45, and lastly, of 60 years of age. None of these appointments were from the half-pay list; they were first employments, and not selected from that age which would give the country a chance of long service before any claim arose for retiring salaries; but exactly the reverse. (hear, hear.) Then in the hackney-coach department, the first gentleman was, at 37 years of age, put down at a salary of 3301. a year; the second, at 35 years of age, had also 3301. a year; the third, at 63 years of age, had the same salary; the fourth, at 37, had 2621. a year; but he was removed from another office, and of course furnished an exception to the other cases. He did not choose to name these gentlemen; but any gentleman who wished to read the papers, could ascertain the correctness of what he had said. There was one other appointment in this department which he would name—it was that of Thomas Shepherd, aged 70, first appointment, 1041. a year. It was quite clear that the Government cared little about the dead weight, when they suffered these appointments to take place: a part of the weight was certainly to be cast upon the shoulders of posterity, but was it fair or necessary that such a burden should be permitted to be cast at all? He could not help also glancing at the extraordinary arrangements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the Bank of Ireland, to which the Irish Government was paying 5 per cent. interest for advances, while the Government here were issuing Exchequer bills at 3 per cent. interest. The complicated arrangements with the Bank of England were also open to much reduction. He would prove, if an inquiry were instituted, that the Bank of England, instead of getting three per cent. interest for loans, were receiving six per cent., owing to the nature of their monopoly. If these subjects were looked into, he pledged himself to prove his assertions. He had already alluded to the declaration of the right honourable gentleman, that the country was not to expect a decrease in the army and navy expenditure for the current and ensuing year. One reason, it would seem, for maintaining this expensive branch of the public expenditure on its present footing, was the state of Ireland. The misgovernment of Ireland had led to every calamity in that unfortunate country. The rebellions and insurrections there, he had heard from intelligent persons, were to be ascribed to two causes—one was the uniform mal-administration of the Government, and the other the ill effect of absenteeism; both these causes pressed heavily upon the labouring classes, and induced constant misery and insubordination. A better system of government would remedy many of these evils. But what objection, he must again ask, could there be to a proper and effective examination of the public expenditure—not by commissioners, but by suitable committees of that house? There ought to be a complete revision of the financial system of the country; it was necessary, and ought not to be postponed. The arrangements of the countries were unparalleled, and though he was far from drawing a gloomy view of the situation of the country,—he knew indeed that the occupiers of the soil were much distressed, and that a reduction of taxation was most welcome to them: the principle of taxation was that the consumer should pay, but it fell particularly heavy on the agriculturists, owing to the general distress of the farmers—not wishing, he repeated, to draw a gloomy view of the situation of the country, for he thought the people capable to meet their burdens with the increase of capital that had arisen, and the improved energies and talents of the population; but ought they to be called for unnecessarily to bear such burdens?

Mr. ELLICE said, he did not rise to follow up the details which the house had just heard from his honourable friend (Mr. Maberly), but he wished particularly to call the house's attention to the result, if result it could be called, which the statements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that evening left them in possession of. That result divided itself into two parts, each of which he proposed to consider in its turn. The country was to understand from the language of the right honourable gentleman, what were the determinations of Government,—1st, with respect to the establishments of the state; and with respect to the future condition of the public offices, and what their estimated expenses were to be. Now he (Mr. Ellice) did not think that any gentleman on that (the Opposition) side of the house would derive much consolation

PARLIAMENTARY.

—89—

from the determination to which his Majesty's Government had come: being (after the statement, too, which they had laid before the house of the national finances) to keep up the establishments of the country as they at present existed, without any the least reduction. (hear, hear.) The right honourable gentleman, in his estimate of expenditure and income for the year 1834, had told them, that the charge was to be, in effect, exactly the same as the charge for 1822. (hear, hear, from the Treasury bench.) At least his Majesty's government had said that it was not in their contemplation to reduce any one item of charge below the present rate. The second part of the result in question, and that to which he (Mr. Ellice) should next call the house's particular attention, was the state of the sinking fund (hear) as it had been to-night laid down by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In former years he [Mr. Ellice] had certainly had occasion to complain that he was not able to comprehend these financial statements of the right hon. gent.; and if he had done so in former years, with how much more reason might he complain of his incapacity to comprehend the present statement of the same right hon. gent. The right hon. gent., however, he (Mr. Ellice) understood to say, that we had for the present year a sinking fund of somewhat under 5,000,000l., and that he hoped next year to have an equal sum of 5,000,000l. applicable to the same fund, making together a clear surplus of revenue above expenditure, on the two years, of 10,000,000l. But looking to the accounts which had been referred to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he (Mr. Ellice) thought he should be able to show, that instead of our having in the two years a sinking fund of clear surplus revenue beyond the expenditure of 10,000,000l., we should have one, in reality, of about 2,000,000l. only. The surplus of revenue beyond expenditure was estimated by the right hon. gentleman at 5,000,000l. But of this amount, 1,939,000l., it was to be recollected, was charged on account of the transaction with the East India Company, making an addition of 70,000l. a year and upwards, for interest, on account of a burden from which the East India Company had been relieved, and which was now imposed on the public. The result of the arrangement in question was, in fact, to impose for the first time this year, and permanently afterwards, a charge of 2,372,000l. But he would take it, in round numbers, at 1,900,000l. The next amount was to be paid to the commissioners for the management of the sinking fund, from the dead fund; but he (Mr. Ellice) confessed that he did not at all understand this part of the arrangement. That amount was to be 2,400,000l. Add to this the East India charge, say 1,900,000l., and the total would be 4,200,000l. Then the right honourable gent. admitted that the increase of Exchequer bills was equivalent to 1,000,000l.—exceeding, in the way that he (Mr. Ellice) had put it, the whole amount of the sinking fund, on the result of the right hon. gentleman's statement. (hear.) He (Mr. Ellice) did not know that he was quite correct in this view of the subject, because it was really not easy to comprehend that right hon. gentleman. (a laugh and cries of "hear.") He did think, however, that he might congratulate the house that next year the delusion and trick in which it had long been customary to envelope these matters would be put an end to; and they would be likely to have a fair statement of a real sinking fund, efficiently applicable to the reduction of debt. (hear, hear.) An honourable friend of his (Mr. Ellice's) had, in the beginning of the session, clearly proved that from the injudicious manner in which the sinking fund had been managed, ever since the termination of the war, by the issue of Exchequer bills for the purchase of stock, and by the consequent raising of the market against the government, a loss of 5,000,000l. had accrued to the public. The papers now before the house called upon him (Mr. Ellice) to notice in the next place the amount of the unfunded debt. The prices of stock in the market, it was true, were high—from 81 to 82; and the right hon. gent. might be right—and it was sincerely to be hoped he was not deceived—he might have good reasons for supposing that for many successive years, no event was likely to arise of nature hostile to the public peace and prosperity. In this view of the case, the prices of the funds, it was certainly most probable, would increase. But suppose that any unforeseen accident should lower them—what would have happened then?—that they would have been greatly raising the market against themselves, on account of buying with Exchequer bills. These bills they might yet be called on at some future time to fund. This contingency had occurred once before; and why should it not occur again? The same consideration supplied another reason for simplifying these accounts next year. The right honourable gentleman had talked a great deal about the present state of public credit. (hear.) There would be no doubt (and this would have been certain, without all that bolstering which the right honourable gentleman had thought proper to support the fact with) that the finances of the country were at this moment in a flourishing condition. (cheers from the Treasury benches.) Long might they continue so (cheers); but if they really possessed a sinking fund like that of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had spoken, but which he (Mr. Ellice) greatly feared was rather a shadow than a substance—he must re-state an opinion which he had so often expressed before,—that it would be much better, under the grievous oppressions which so many portions of the community had at present to deplore, to remit taxes to the extent of such a sinking fund. This would be to afford

a sensible relief. He had heard petitions read from many parts of the country, calling in very broad terms for the reduction of the debt. (hear, hear.) Now, though it appeared to him that these parties, under their particular circumstances, would experience very little benefit even if their prayer should be granted—for if once an act of great public injury was committed by the legislature, another might so immediately follow upon it as to make it very possible that the same evils of which the petitioners complained might instantly be increased,—yet at least their prayer demanded some consideration. What he (Mr. Ellice) complained of was this: that that house ought long ago to have examined into the state and claims, not only of the public creditor, but of the private creditor. Let the House look at the situation of the private creditor, as compared with that of the owner of any other property. In the latter end of 1814, and perhaps to the summer of 1815, the price of the funds was 42 53. Gold at the same period was as high as 51. 8s. per ounce. The price of the funds was now at 81. and gold was at 31. 17s. 10d. only. Every shilling of funded property, which the public creditor possessed in 1814 and 1815, was now nearly doubled in value. (hear, hear.) On the other hand, every other species of property was now depreciated in about an equal proportion. The public creditor, supposing that the funds had never advanced in this manner, would, at that former price, be now taking amply enough for his money. Let the house imagine the case of a person who held 5,000l. of stock in 1814-15, and continued to hold as much now, and another person then holding 5,000l. in some other species of property—as in farms, or merchandise, which he still retained. What would it find the relative condition of two such individuals to be now? The farmer's property was reduced in value, at least one-half; nay, it was almost annihilated. The public creditor's stock, on the contrary, had increased to double its former value (hear); and this, too, he it observed, not in the ordinary course of things, but in consequence of the proceedings of the legislature. (hear, hear.) Really he must agree with his hon. friend, the member for Abingdon (Mr. Maberly), that the house ought to look into this matter with a view to reduce the national debt by some fair and equal contribution of all descriptions of property. If they recollected the comparative state of the farmer and the fundholder in 1815 and 1823, it would be found that from the constant depreciation of property to which the farmer had been in the mean time subjected, he was no longer able to contribute to such a purpose; the means even of support were absolutely not left him; while the public creditor was left in the situation of having doubled his property. (hear.)

Mr. RICARDO declared, that ever since he had had the honour of a seat in that house, the minister had always expressed his hopes of increasing the sinking fund. (hear, hear.) Every year he had heard the minister say that the sinking fund would have improved in a much greater degree, had not some particular and most inopportune emergency arisen. (a laugh, and cries of "hear.") The unfortunate fact was still however, year after year, that the sinking fund was not enlarged, but "to be" raised. Thus it was that the right hon. gent. had told the house that very evening (certain matters connected with the accounts which he referred to being supposed to turn out in a particular way, that they had a clear surplus of revenue over expenditure this year of 5,000,000l., and that on the 5th of January, 1824, he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) doubted not to have a sinking fund of 5,000,000l. Now he (Mr. Ricardo) would beg to call the attention of the committee to the statements which had been so made by the right hon. gentleman. (hear.) The house had now, it was perfectly well understood, agreed that we should never have a sinking fund, unless it was a fund, arising from the surplus of our income above our expenditure. In the first place, therefore, they must look at the accounts of the income and charge of the present year. Having done so, they would certainly see what was the surplus of the revenue over the expenditure of the year. The actual revenue of the present year, under the head of "Ways and Means," was 4,961,000l. (hear, hear, from the Treasury bench.) He begged to repeat, that it was, according to the papers, produced by the right hon. gentleman, 4,961,000l. arising from the following sources:—

From Annual Taxes	£3,000,000
Tax Duties	1,500,000
Lottery	200,000
Old Stores	151,000
And, finally, from Repayment made by Commissioners for issuing Exchequer Bills, for public Works	110,000
Making together	4,961,000

(hear.) Here, then, they had a sum of 4,961,000l. wherewith to pay an acknowledged expenditure of 17,515,000l. Besides this 17,515,000l. there was a charge of 200,450l., which latter was, properly speaking, an item in the expenditure of the last year, but remained to be provided for in the present one. The expenditure was thus, increased to 18,105,450l. (hear, hear.) Now, deducting what he would call the Receipts, being (as shown upon the papers to which he was referring) 4,961,000l. from this total of 18,105,450l.

the exact sum of 13,144,450

would be the balance of the year's expenditure. But, in addition to this balance, we had this year to pay to the East India Company 1,357,000*l.* (*hear, hear, from the Treasury bench.*) He contended that the payment now agreed to be made by Government to the East India Company amounted altogether to 1,357,000*l.* (*hear, hear.*) It was to the whole payment that he was looking. It was very possible, however, in consequence of one of the statements made by the right hon. gentleman, that he (Mr. Ricardo) should be told, he was here making a mistake of 500,000*l.* and upwards. (*hear.*) Be it so. Then the debt to be paid to the East India Company would stand, say at 1,300,000*l.* This additional charge would make the year's expenditure, which he had just left at 13,444,450*l.*, 14,444,450*l.* Now, what had they to set against this expenditure of 14,444,450*l.*? Why, according to the right hon. gentleman, they would next year have a sinking fund, in amount, (as stated in his paper) 14,461,539*l.* Therefore he (Mr. Ricardo,) maintained that the surplus of revenue above expenditure would this year be, on the right hon. gentleman's own statements, 1,400,000*l.* The real sinking fund for the present year was not more than 1,400,000*l.* (*hear, hear.*) But, said the right honourable gentleman, "this arises from an accident." It seemed that Government had a further payment to make to the East India Company this year; and but for this item, the surplus would have been considerably more. If the right honourable gentleman's account, however, was right, they had a surplus of income above expenditure, on this year, of 5,000,000*l.* But how could that right hon. gentleman make it out? Certainly he (Mr. Ricardo,) could not; for to him the account presented itself in this shape:

Amount of the year's revenue	....	233,087,000
Do, expenditure	....	51,150,000
Balance of revenue over expenditure	....	21,908,000

Even in this way of making out the account, it would appear that under 2,000,000*l.* was the whole surplus or sinking fund of the present year, though he (Mr. Ricardo) must still contend that it was no more than 1,400,000*l.* "But no," said the Chancellor of the Exchequer: "there is to be added 700,000*l.* saved by the reduction of interest on the capital stock of the 5 per cents. and that increases the surplus to 2,600,000*l.* and upwards." But how the right honourable gentleman could include this item, he (Mr. Ricardo) was at a loss to guess. However, to this amount of 2,600,000*l.* the right honourable gentleman added the item "to the trustees for the new payment of half pay pensions" 2,400,000*l.*; and then endeavoured to persuade the house that here was a total saving of 5,000,000*l.* But would any one else in that house say that this was a surplus of 5,000,000*l.* over our expenditure? (*hear.*) Even according to this identical statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the real surplus was raised only to 2,600,000*l.*; and he (Mr. Ricardo) would defy any man who did not himself set figures at defiance (*a laugh*), to make it more. (*hear.*) The house was told that in 1826, that including the sum to be received from the trustees of the new half pay pensions, there would be a surplus of 4,875,000*l.* But he begged to ask, were there no payments to be made on the other side of this account? He knew very well that the charge for army and navy was already included in this estimate; but then these payments, the house must see, from the half pay pension trustees, could not be considered in the light of money received. They would not surely ever come into the Treasury as money. In 1824, all that they should ever receive into the public Exchequer would be (on the statement of the right honourable gentleman himself) 52,469,000*l.* and all that they should have to pay out of it, in that year, 50,600,000*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,869,000*l.* or thereabouts. The surplus of 1824, consequently, would be under 2,000,000*l.* (*hear, hear.*) He (Mr. Ricardo) was very much disposed to concur in what had been said by an hon. friend of his as to the propriety of ministers directing their attention to increase the unfunded debt, and to diminish the funded debt. (*hear.*) If there was any period in the history of the debt, at which such a course could be considered as proper, this was the time. (*hear.*) The funds were now higher than they had been for some time. Yet far from availing himself of that circumstance, the right honourable gentleman had gone on, rather to increase the funded debt, and to diminish the unfunded debt. If he (Mr. Ricardo) had an operation in the funds to perform, he could only say, that the course he would take, would be just the reverse of this. (*hear.*) The Chancellor of the Exchequer had made several remarks on the circumstance of the Bank of England's having reduced the rate of interest, in their transactions, to 4 per cent., from 5 per cent. He was glad to hear the right hon. gent. on this occasion remark, that our present usury laws were extremely unfair; but he did not expect to hear that remark accompanied by the observation that the present was not a fit moment to alter those laws. To him (Mr. Ricardo) it did seem that no time was so proper for the alteration of those laws as this; for the interest of money being actually less than the legal rate, the laws themselves were a mere dead letter. Nothing that the Bank could do, would effect that rate. It might, perhaps, do so for a few days, or for a month, but he was not speaking of months or twelve months. What he contended for was this, that whether the Bank chose to lend their money at 3 or at 5 per

cent., it would not make any real difference in the general rate of interest. (*hear.*) Undoubtedly he was very glad to hear that the Bank had at length begun to discount at 4 per cent.; and he thought they should have done so long before. Had they persisted in demanding 5 per cent., they would have been without a single note to cash; but they had, in respect of interest, departed from their own system in very many instances. They had lent their money to the Chancellor of the Exchequer at 3 per cent., and they now held Exchequer bills bearing interest at 2*½* per cent. only. Had the Bank determined to take nothing less than 5 per cent. for their money, the consequence must have been, that England must have resorted entirely to a metallic currency, or some other set of persons, of sufficient credit, must have issued their paper. He was rejoiced, however, that they had taken another determination; and he could now only commiserate that unfortunate person who should persist in demanding 5 per cent. for the loan of his capital, when the Bank of England accepted 4 per cent. for the same purpose. (*hear.*)

A MEMBER from under the gallery (we believe Mr. J. Martin) begged to ask, whether, had the 5 per cents. been at 60 instead of 50, it would have been possible for the Bank to have reduced the rate of interest from 5 to 3 per cent.? Were gentlemen aware that on the 5th or 6th of this month not less than 6,000,000*l.* or 7,000,000*l.* of interest would become due to the public creditor, not one-fourth of which was at present provided for? (*hear, hear.*) Were they aware that the Government was obliged to go to the Bank for the money to meet this demand every quarter? (*hear.*)

Mr. HUME professed himself unable to account for the way in which these papers were drawn up. He considered the nominal amount of the debt to be of much less consequence than the actual yearly annuity which the public had to pay in perpetuity; and to judge of its effect, the house need only look, in the years since the conclusion of the war, at the clear permanent charge of the funded debt. In 1816 the charge payable on this account was

1816 upwards of	.....	27,000,000
1817	.....	28,000,000
1818	.....	29,000,000
1819, 1820, and 1821	.....	30,000,000

This year, he meant the gone-by year, had increased the charge to 30,000,000*l.* and upwards. Thus it was that we had increased our funded and lightened our unfunded debt. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer, instead of lessening this permanent charge, had in fact augmented it to 30,911,000*l.*, thereby increasing the annual charge of permanent annuity by about 1,300,000*l.* per annum. In this case, too, there was no reduction of funded debt, which, being added to the unfunded debt, might have decreased the charge of permanent annuity. On the contrary, there was this year to be an increase instead of a decrease of funded debt by the amount of between four and five millions. There was therefore an increase in the permanent charge of the funded debt of 5,000,000*l.* sterling. So that there was no prospect held out of any reduction of charge or expenditure. As for the amount of the sinking fund, he (Mr. Hume) did not know where his honourable friend (Mr. Ellice) had been able to find any fund at all. (*a laugh.*) In the present year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer took credit for 1,500,000*l.* for increase of permanent annuities, 1,500,000*l.*; and for upwards of 500,000*l.* for current expenses of the present year. Added together, here was an increase of 2,791,000*l.* The honourable gentleman went on, to analyse the calculations of the right honourable gentleman, and to show that in fact the net increase was 500,000*l.* only. If they looked at the permanent charge of the funded debt, there was no clear increase; but the increase on that charge, he had shown amounted to 1,500,000*l.* this year. He saw, therefore, no reason for the house to congratulate itself on the statements of the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. LUSHINGTON then addressed the house; but in so low a tone of voice, that owing to that circumstance, and the confusion which the great influx of strangers into the gallery created, very little of what the hon. gent. said was audible to us. We understood him to recapitulate a great variety of details before embodied in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech, and to contend that no ministry within the last century had done more in the work of retrenchment than the present Government. He thought it was matter of congratulation that his right hon. friend could anticipate for the ensuing year the same reduced scale of expenditure as this year existed. It had been said, as to the reform which had taken place in the establishment of public offices, and those further regulations which were contemplated, yet it was in vain to attempt any thing excepting through a committee of the House of Commons. He contended that the commissioners that had been found for those purposes had done much more good than all the committees of former years. On the whole, he was quite satisfied, upon considering the statement of his right honourable friend, that we should this year have a surplus of revenue over the expenditure of between four and five millions. The honourable member for Portarlington did not seem to be exactly aware, that the claims of the East India Company, after a discussion of some years, had been finally arranged and settled at the sum of 1800,000*l.*

and upwards; but the Company had paid to Government a debt due from them of £30,000, being the net balance on that account. The other sum Government of course had to provide for. He considered that the house would now think with him, that the statement which had been made by his noble friend (Lord Londonderry) at the beginning of the session was completely justified; and if it wanted any corroboration, the speech that night delivered by the honourable member for Portarlington would have supplied it.

Mr. RICARDO, in explanation, said it was true that one of the grand points of difference between him and the right honourable gentleman was the debt of the East India Company, and the item of 700,000, arising out of the reduced interest on the 5 per cents, which the right hon. gent. had either wrongly credited, or included twice in the same account.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in explanation, observed, that the hon. member had spoken of one or two charges which were not included in the account before the house, as they could not come into this year's return.

Mr. CALCRAFT said, the right hon. gent. had stated his surplus at £,000,000. In order to produce this, he had taken credit for a sum of £3,000,000, which the East India Company were to pay us. But he had left out the 1,000,000, on the other side of the statement, which was not in these accounts, but by which the public was certainly minus. When the right hon. gentleman talked of a surplus of £,000,000, he (Mr. Calcraft) must say, that they had no such thing; because in getting at it the right honourable gentleman had taken no notice of the amount which had been, but which was now no longer due to the East India Company. Therefore the public had 1,000,000, less of assets than they had in the beginning of the year. But then it might be said that the East India Company were to pay £30,000, to the right hon. gent. therefore the house were entitled to make a deduction from that surplus which the country were entitled to have received from that company, but which, upon the statement of the account, Government had allowed to the East India Company. If, on the one side, they took credit for £30,000, they ought on the other side to place the whole of the sum which the East India Company had owed to the public at the beginning of the year.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that this £30,000, being applicable to the services of the year, the account did not stand as the hon. gent. conceived it should. The 1,000,000, was not carried to the other side of the account, because that amount arose out of the statement of an account between Government and the East India Company, which had since been settled, and upon which mutual releases had been given.

Mr. J. SMITH declared himself friendly to the sinking fund and to its principle. When they looked at the amount of the debt due to the public creditor, they must be satisfied that a sinking fund could alone tend to its extinction. It was on this account that he had ever felt disposed to advocate the principle of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in keeping up the funds at the highest price. The right hon. gentleman might hope reasonably enough that so he should be able to reduce the interest due to the public creditor. There were two ways of effecting such a reduction of interest. One of them he should be tempted to denounce as fraudulent and scandalous (hear, hear), as one which would involve the country in danger and ruin, and which in his opinion, would overthrow all the institutions of the country, and would prove effectually destructive to the landed interest. The second, and the more equitable mode, would be to raise the price of stock so high that the individual creditor should be contented to take a smaller interest on his debt than he had received before. If Government performed its promise on the subject of economy, he was not without hope that the 4 per cent stock might be reduced to a lower rate of interest, and perhaps the 3 per cent stock reduced to 2 per cent, with it. At least such was the object that all ought to have in view. He confessed that he had been somewhat disappointed by the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; he had hoped that it would have been more flattering in its prospects, if not in its details. With regard to the present distress of the country, he saw no reason to suppose that they would be permanent; he had never known any article at an extremely low price that did not afterwards become excessively dear; and it might be the same with wheat. The distress carried its own remedy—cruel, he admitted, but effectual; for the ruin of the small farmers would occasion the growth of less grain, and a consequent rise in what was produced by the large farmers. If, indeed, the depression continued, he saw no remedy but giving up the sinking fund.

Mr. BROUGHAM congratulated the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the novelty of this debate. Formerly, when the individual filling that office brought forward his annual statement of finance, commonly called the budget, he had received felicitations, and panegyrics from various quarters—from independent country and from other respectable members not at all connected with the departments of government; but the novelty is slight was, that all these felicitations, all these panegyrics, came from a gentleman most intimately connected with the very department of

the Chancellor of the Exchequer—the Secretary for the Treasury. (hear, hear.) He was the great champion of ministers—the special protector of the weak and inefficient right hon. gent.—the disinterested congratulator on the promising aspect of public affairs. (hear.) Amid all their boasted economy, they seemed to have made at least one retrenchment—that of a trumpeter—a situation which the hon. secretary had shown himself well qualified to fill, if no other. (hear, and laughter.) He had “rang out his panegyric” upon those who “sat attentive to their own applause,” but much as he had talked, and loudly as he had belauded and bepraised his right hon. friend, when he came to his proofs—to the grounds on which he trusted his claims to the approbation of the house, and to the gratitude of the nation, he had shown a most miserable deficiency. Like a trumpeter, he was full of sound, but that sound had no meaning. (hear.) According to him, there never had been such an excellent and economical Government—it had done ten times more than all the committees of the house—than the house itself, nay, than all the ministers who had sat in the house for the last hundred years. This eulogium, however warm towards his friends, was not paying any very exaggerated compliment to the house, or to its committees. (hear, hear.) The hon. gent. had not been content to look back for a few years, and to say merely that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Lord of the Treasury had done more in one vacation than Parliament in five sessions—such applause was far too moderate for the fervour of his admiration—he leaped at once over a hundred years, and “panting time told” after him in vain; he did not condescend to compare his present friends with any preceding set of the servants of the crown, but with a whole century of ministers with whom the country had been blest—for blest he must say, or the panegyric of the hon. gent. would still be too tame and cold for the extravagant merits of the men he honoured with his distinguished and distinguishing applause. It might have been better, however, if for the sake of those who did not take every thing for granted, the hon. gent. had not his eulogium shorter, and favoured the house with more evidence. It might have been better if he had ventured to advert a little to the pinching view of the subject taken by the hon. member for Abingdon (Mr. Mahoe). What had these admirable ministers in fact accomplished by all their unheeded labours. The finance committee of 1817 had stated that the whole expense of the establishments of that year ought to be 17,350,000, exclusive of the charge for collecting the revenue, or with that expense 25,100,000. By that standard were to be tried these heaven inspired ministers. Had they, or had they not, done more than the house, its committees, or their predecessors for a century? Their estimate for last year was nearly 26,000,000; and upon their own showing, to what would the establishment this year amount? To 24,350,000, or only 850,000, below the calculation of the finance committee of 1817. Let it be observed, also, that these vanquished reductions had been made during the years when great changes had occurred. The finance committee never meant that the establishments should always, under any circumstances, be kept up to the amount they had calculated; that sum was very well to begin with, but the retrenchments were to be continued, and to keep pace with the wants of the kingdom. It was not to be denied that since 1817, every article of subsistence had fallen at least 25 per cent.; if he said 50 per cent., perhaps he should be nearer the truth. (hear.) Supposing that the operation on the currency only were to be the measure of the difference of value, had it not been restored from a depression of 25 per cent. to par? (hear.) In order, then, to keep pace with that effect, the reduction, instead of only being considerably less than one million, ought to have been more than five millions. He would refer only to a single item to illustrate this point—the collection of the revenue; he did not believe that it was a quarter of million less than in 1817. He had not the precise figure before him, but he spoke with confidence when he found that last year the charge was 7,770,000, and this year 7,720,000, being only a reduction of 50,000. He could not, therefore, at all join in the extravagant applauses of the most unconnected, unenlightened, disinterested, and impartial secretary for the Treasury. (hear, hear.) That honourable gentleman had also touched very tenderly upon ground which the member for Abingdon had trodden with a heavier step—he alluded to the superannuation allowances. He (Mr. Brougham) would put it to any man used to the immediate precincts of the Treasury, even to any one of the lords of the Treasury not immediately concerned in the details of office, (and God knew that some of them were little enough concerned in these details, and therefore were not present even on the night of the budget,) whether there could be a more obvious saving than that pointed out by the hon. member for Abingdon, viz.—that one individual holding two offices, one of which was adequate to his support, was entitled to no allowance if one of them were abolished. This most important principle ought to run through the whole of the superannuations, yet it ran through very few of them. If a man at the age of 60 or 70, after 40 or 50 years' service, retired from infirmity or sickness, he was entitled to an allowance according to his circumstances; but if the place were abolished, he had no claim to more than what would provide him with a decent maintenance. If the individual had lived in for only a short time, he had a right to nothing; but supposing he had a right to something, the principle, was incontestable, that if another office were given

him he was not entitled to a single farthing! (*hear.*) But this was not the principle on which the great reformers of the present day, who had outstripped all their predecessors in economy, felt bound to act. In the papers before the house, he could show over and over again that superannuation allowances were given to persons who held one, two, and even three offices. (*hear.*) Was this common justice to the public? Was it not consulting patronage only to the disregard of the rights and the interests of the people? Another point strongly put by the honourable member for Abingdon, seriously required attention. When pensions were given upon the abolition of offices, and vacancies occurred elsewhere, nothing could be more clear than the propriety of preferring those who already enjoyed allowances. Could a grosser squandering of the public money be maintained, than taking, on such occasions, individuals who had never been in office before? It could hardly be said that all those who had been so active during the war were incapable and superannuated. He found in the papers on the table, a case of this sort. A gentleman who held an office of 300*l.* a year, which was abolished, obtained retiring pension of 100*l.* a year. He was then appointed to another place of 300*l.* a year, which was also abolished; but instead of giving him his 100*l.* a year, ministers had added 140*l.* as a retiring pension upon the second appointment: so that he received just as much for doing nothing as he had been paid for doing something. This was a matter that would puzzle any but a state arithmetician—it was a mystery which even the hon. gentleman opposite had not attempted to solve. Another piece of mis-called economy showed the ingenuity with which the public money was squandered by these most rigid friends of reduction—he alluded to the case of a person who first had an office of 500*l.* or 600*l.* a year, which was abolished when he was only 35 years old, in the prime of life, and he obtained a retired allowance of 400*l.* a year. If he had held no other place, the pension would have been too large; but the fact was that he now had another place of 300*l.* a year, still retaining his pension of 400*l.* a year. (*hear.*) That was not all, for he enjoyed two other places of considerable emolument, or at least two offices consolidated for him into one, by which he obtained a poundage of perhaps 800*l.* a year, for such was the amount the places had formerly produced. (*hear, hear.*) This was a case in which not a penny ought to have been given in the shape of retiring pension. In every page of the papers similar instances of absolute waste were to be discovered. Something had been said in passing regarding the Secretary of the Board of Control. It turned out that besides his increase of salary, from 1,700*l.* to 2,300*l.* he also derived a considerable income from being a colonial agent. The honourable gentleman to whom ministers this night were under such heavy obligations (he being also under heavy obligations to them,) not content with smothering his friends with praises and their antagonists with words, not to say arguments, had gone further, and even remarked upon those gentlemen who had not even opened their mouths, or at least opened them only to cheer. He had been curious to know why Mr. Brongham, among others, had cheered the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding the debt of the East India Company. It was very true, he Mr. Brongham, had not read the papers; but on the *prima facie* view, it was not a little singular that this great trading body should have carried their trading system to the extent of demanding five millions, and accepting 1,300,000*l.* (*hear, hear.*) It would be thought odd in the transactions of private life, if a tradesman were to send in his bill for 5*l.* and consent to have it cut down to 12*l.* Yet the innocent Chancellor of the Exchequer, with all the simplicity imaginable—a simplicity of which it seemed the Company had endeavoured to avail themselves, went on to state that both parties were extremely well satisfied with the arrangement. This occasioned the cheer, for it seemed extraordinary that the East India Company should not grumble at all that their claim of 5,000,000*l.* was cut down to about 5*l.* in the pound. (*hear.*) Having had many opportunities of stating his opinions upon the separate topics involved in this discussion, he should not detain the house longer than to advert briefly to what had fallen from an hon. friend on the subject of the national debt. No man had broached the doctrine that the public creditor ought not to be paid; but he must repeat what he was sure was the sound view of the matter both in point of justice and as a question of finance, that the best security to the public creditor, not only for his interest, but his capital itself, was perseverance in the system of economy in spite of all the warnings of ministers—in checking wilful extravagance (for so he must call it, notwithstanding all the laborious and unprecedented exertions of the present gifted ministry), which the experience of every day showed to be fatal. He called it fatal, because there really must be a fatality about it—it was too many for ministers—their exertions to control it had been fruitless; cruelly sparing and unjustly parsimonious of the public money, as the noble marquis and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were known to be, it had overpowered them, and the consequence was, that retrenchment had been carried no farther than was evinced by the budget of this evening. (*hear, hear.*)

M. G. SMITH said a few words in a low tone regarding the claim of the East India Company, and on the sinking fund.

The question was then put on the first resolution, and it was carried. On reading the second,

Mr. GRENFELL begged to put a question to the noble marquis regarding the Austrian loan, from which he was sorry to see no sum carried to the credit of the year. In the last session the noble marquis had held out a hope that something might be obtained; and, certainly, when the debt was contracted, more solemn assurances of good faith could not have been given. In the whole, reckoning principal and interest, it was, he believed, 17 millions. He apprehended that some bonds were given at the time of the loan, and there seemed no reason why they should not be put up to auction; no doubt speculators might be found to give something for them, and however little, it might be applied to the public service.

The Marquis of LONDONDERRY said, that a negotiation had been opened for the settlement of the question, though he had before stated that the house could hardly look forward to the liquidation of the claim. It would be too much for him now to give any assurance that some arrangement might possibly be made, but still he was not absolutely without hopes upon the subject. He desired to be understood as not at all pledging himself regarding the result of the pending negotiations; but whether favourable or unfavourable, the house was entitled to any information regarding it.

Sir J. NEWPORT hoped that Great Britain would not allow her claim to be sent down like that of the East India Company. (*hear and laughter.*)

When Mr. BRIDGES arrived at the resolution for 200,000*l.* for lotteries,

Mr. J. MARTIN declared that he would take the sense of the committee upon it.

Mr. HUME observed, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had hinted that he would give it up, if some other tax were substituted; and the wishes of the country had been so often expressed against lotteries, that he thought 200,000*l.* could be spared out of the surplus revenue of which the right hon. gent. had spoken.

Mr. W. SMITH was of opinion, that if lotteries were preserved, one commissioner only was necessary. All of them had not been able to prevent the secretary for lotteries from appearing on the list of public defaulters.

The committee then divided.

For the resolution, 74—Against it, 34—Majority, 40.

On our re-admission we found

Mr. GRENFELL asking a question regarding the 500,000*l.* a year stipulated to be paid by the East India Company.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER referred to the terms of the charter of 1703, observing, that the sum was to be paid on certain conditions to be fulfilled by this country, which not having been fulfilled, no more than the first payment had been received.

Mr. W. WYNN said, that after the debt of 25 millions was discharged, the public would participate in the profits of the Company more largely than the Company itself.

Mr. HUME remarked, that that contingency was not very likely to happen.

The other resolutions having been agreed to, Mr. BRIDGES left the chair, and it was ordered that the report should be received to-morrow.

MARRIAGES.

At London, on the 9th of July, Henry Lindsey Bethune, Esq. of Kilsnoquhar, county of Fife, to Miss Cecilia Trotter, eldest daughter of John Trotter, Esq. of Durham Park.

At Streatham Church, Surrey, on the 9th of July, Captain Mason, of the late 109th Regiment, to Miss Gordon, daughter of Lieut. Colonel Gordon.

BIRTHS.

At Brahan Castle, on the 9th of July, Hon. Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie, of Seaforth, of a Daughter.

On the 8th of July, the Lady of Thomas C. Hogart, Esq. of a Daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 14th of July, at Mrs. Newman's, Ash, Kent, after a lingering illness, Mr. Richard Chambers, late of Dove-court, Lombard-street.

On the 10th of July, at Chelsea, of a decline, aged 18, James, the eldest son of Alexander Bruce, Esq., much beloved by his affectionate parents.

On Sunday the 28th of July, at Smith-square, Westminster, William Waterhouse, Esq. in the 60th year of his age.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

- 93 -

Fraud and Robbery.

FRAUD AND ROBBERY COMMITTED BY A LURKING PEON AT MESSRS. HUTTON AND CO.'S

From a Correspondent.

We understand a Sirkar belonging to Messrs. Dick, Crump and Co. went to Messrs. Hutton and Co. on Friday last to present a Bill for payment, and being, as usual, prevented from presenting the Bill himself, gave into the hand of one of the Peons in the Office to go and get it signed. After waiting the whole of the day at the Office for the return of the Bill, the Sirkar was told that the Peon to whom he had given the Bill did not belong to the Office, but that the said *false* Peon had got it signed through a *true* Peon of the House, realized the money and clandestinely run off with it. Nobody seems to know who the deceitful Peon is, or what he was doing in the Office, but Messrs. Dick, Crump and Co. are informed that the name signed on the back of their Bill is "Cadder Peon."

It is fortunate that the Bill is but for the trifling sum of 125 Rs. but had it been for 125,000, the Robbery might have been as easily committed; and it is evidently therefore very necessary for all Houses of Business to be exceedingly cautious in retaining faithful Darwans to prevent the admission of improper persons, as well as in keeping more responsible Servants than Peons of any kind to receive and return Bills that are to be presented for acceptance or payment.—*Calcutta, January 6, 1823.*

Malice.

"Animasque in vulnere ponunt."

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir, What a detestable thing is malice; it wrought the fall of our first parents from Paradise, and has ever been looked upon by their children as an inmate fit only for the souls of demons. In favour of almost every other emotion of the heart something or other may be said: ambition often spurs on to noble deeds, love is amiable, fear has our pity, and rashness often commands admiration; but malice, like a venomous reptile receives the unmixt detestation of all men. No man will stand up to say a word for malice, but all look upon it as a common and daily enemy. Happily, Providence has in a certain degree rendered impotent this most fend-like of the passions, and we generally find it so *detested*, that in the blindness of its fury it thinks only of striking its victim, reckless of the consequences to itself; hence I suppose it is we have so frequently the satisfaction to see malice, like the angry scorpion, sting itself to death.

These reflections have occurred to me on reading the lame and impotent excuse of the Editor of the *Jeune Bull*, and the base-minded *Nizam*, for bringing before the Public, in a most unjustifiable manner, the Officers of the Artillery at Dum Dum, and the insolent attempt to dictate to those gentlemen the conduct they should pursue in the case of an individual whose character has lately been the subject of discussion. The worthy Editor and his worthy Correspondent, for both of them are worthy men, tell the Gentleman in question that what they have been so dull of apprehension as to take for an insult, was in fact one of the highest compliments! Truly, Sir, this is mending the matter. What an admirable compliment is this to the understandings of those Gentlemen! After this, what could they do less than subscribe to a score of *BULLS*!

It gives me extreme satisfaction to see malice thus brought to a stand; to see the gentle Editor of the *BULL*, who at his outset sued for peace, and "reared as softly as any sucking dove," and who has ever professed himself the prop and stay of "weak-eyed" piety, thus justly punished for having given place in his breast to "envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness."

January 6, 1823.

LÆLIUS.

Verus.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir, I think it proper to acquaint you that the *Verus* of to-day's *Jeune Bull*, and the writer of a letter in your Paper some time ago, on a very different subject, under the same Signatures, are two different persons.

Your's, &c.

January 4, 1823.

VERUS PRIMUS.

Notice.

Such fate to suffering worth is giv'n,
By various wants and failings riv'n.
And by their fellows' hardness driv'n.
To misery's brink;
And robb'd of e'ry stay but Heav'n,
They ruin'd sink.—*Burns, to a Mountain Dairy.*

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir, I regret that I am obliged to discontinue the Series of Essays, which I promised to extend to One Hundred Numbers. A private disappointment, (which it is needless to mention more particularly), will not, I apprehend, permit me, hereafter, to devote any of my time to composition. I indulge a hope, however, of being able to resume my project in other and in better days.

January 4, 1823.

Sir, Your's obediently,

CATO.

Man.

"DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD BE DONE BY."

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir, This precept is emphatically termed by Sacred Writ to be *The Law and the Prophets*. Indeed, daily observation shows us, how the condition of man would be improved, were this practised. Man, who now repulses his fellow, his brother of the dust, when he begs to toil for him, in order to gain a bare subsistence; man, who stoops to the basest things if they can promote his worldly interests, or gratify his passions; man would then live with man in an interchange of good offices.

If one, who has from his birth enjoyed the smiles of fortune, refused to aid another, it is not surprising; but, when a man, who has felt the severest frowns and buffetings of adversity, shews by his actions, when his condition is bettered, that his heart is hardened, instead of being so softened as to feel for those who are struggling amid the storms of fate;—I say, when one is capable of doing all this, what is every virtuous member of Society to think of him!

I speak "more in sorrow than in anger;" and enjoin every one who bears the name of Christian, not to disgrace it, by such conduct. For him that does good and him that commits evil, there will surely be a just award, hereafter.

Saturday.

A HAPLESS SON OF THE MUSES.

CALCUTTA BAZAR RATES, JANUARY 4, 1823.

	BUY....	SELL
Remittable Loans,	Rs. 23 0	23 0
Unremittable ditto,	15 4	14 13
Bills of Exchange on the Court of Directors, for } 12 Months, dated 30th of June 1823..... }	20 0	27 0
Ditto, for 18 Months, dated 30th of April, 1823....	20 0	25 0
Bank Shares,	2200 0	2200 0
Spanish Dollars, per 100,	200 0	200 0
Notes of Good Houses, for 6 Months, bearing Interest, at 5 per cent.		
Government Bills, Discount.....		at 3-6 per cent.
Loans on Deposit of Company's Paper, for 1 to 3 months, at 3-6 per cent.		

Selections.

Addresses to the Marquess of Hastings.—We to-day publish three more Addresses to the Marquess of Hastings: That from the British Inhabitants of Madras is chiefly remarkable for its shortness; it has nearly eighty signatures. The Address from the "British Inhabitants" of the Station and District of Cawnpore has considerably more, and is very comprehensive in its principle, embracing both young and old. Why are Ladies excluded from addressing, when Boys are not? Lastly the Address from Singapore subscribed by the Governor and Resident Gentlemen of the Siam Mission, and others, is distinguished from its predecessors by this singularity, that it emanates from "the European and Asiatic Inhabitants." We are glad to see this improvement; as a joint Address shows a union of feeling and interest; and we regret that so much pains has been taken by the wording of the Addresses in other parts of India, (Calcutta taking the lead) to establish an apparent division which if it unfortunately existed should not be blazoned forth to the world. By what fatuity could any friend to the consolidation of British power in India erect barriers between the European and Asiatic populations to prevent them from cordially commingling their sentiments if so inclined in praise of its Governors and Government? It is worthy of remark that in the Singapore Address, like to the late instance of the Sugar Petition here, Sooltan MUHMOOD SHAW, and others of Asiatics are made to talk complacently of Great Britain as "their country." "We are above all (says Sooltan Muhmoed, &c.) proud in behalf of our country of the pure example which your Lordship's personal and public conduct has exhibited among distant strangers of British humanity and generosity."

Murder of Mr. Imlach.—The deep feeling excited by this atrocious murder is now necessarily a good deal subsided, but the Public will no doubt be glad to know what steps are taking to discover the perpetrators; and we hope soon to be able to announce that such a clue has been obtained as will ultimately lead to their conviction. The unjoined particulars are drawn from the most authentic source, and we have given them in exactly the same words as sent to us, the person who communicated them being able and willing to vouch for their accuracy from the opportunities he has had of becoming acquainted with the circumstances. It is the duty of the Press to assist the civil power as far as it can in unravelling such affairs, and we shall be happy if the publication of what follows enable those in the neighbourhood of the transaction or of the spot where it originated to suggest something that may lead to the detection of the real perpetrators or the exoneration of those, who, in the present aspect of the case, may be blamed innocently.

One thing very evident is, that the murder was perpetrated not by common robbers, because the object would have been plunder; but from motives of revenge and by persons who either were deadly enemies themselves, or hired and set on by the mortal foes of the deceased. The Zillah of Nuddeah has long been notorious for the turbulent character of its inhabitants, and although the great talents and activity of the late Mr. Elliot and the meritorious (now forgotten) services of Mr. Peter Andrew, succeeded in subduing and dispersing the bands of regular marauders, the ferocious spirit still remained, and occasionally broke forth in acts of outrage. A Mr. Arnott (we believe) lost his life in a dispute with the inhabitants, arising from circumstances somewhat similar to those which lately proved fatal to Ensign MacKean, noticed in our pages of last Monday. Sir Henry Russell, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court here, whose rigorous administration of justice is well known to all the inhabitants of Bengal, had probably excited the wrath of some natives of Nuddeah, in a case connected with that district; as, happening to be travelling in that quarter he was pursued by banditti and after being several hours exposed to their attacks from which he defended himself, he fortunately escaped.

We cannot be surprised, then at the deplorable fate of Mr. Imlach since Indigo Planters are most likely of all others, from the nature of their occupation, to become embroiled with the Inhabitants, and we are given to understand that his enemies were numerous and bitter among more than one class of people. There is therefore a wide field over which to search for his Murderers, and if perjury be as common in that district as in other parts of the country, there is as much danger of being imposed upon by false accusations against the innocent, as there is difficulty in obtaining true evidence against the guilty. But human judges who are not the heart, must rest satisfied with such proof as can be had: the Truth belongs to God.

We are happy that the investigation of this difficult case has fallen to the lot of a Gentleman so well qualified as Mr. Turnbull, by his long experience, his intimate and extensive acquaintance with the Native languages, and his conciliating manners, not to mention other high qualities foreign to this subject; and as it is now before the Nizamut Adawlut we hope it will speedily be brought to an issue satisfactory to public justice. The following is the paragraph sent us for insertion:—

"Before the former active and zealous (Acting) Magistrate of Kishnaghar, Mr. Reid, had delivered over charge, four persons had confessed

being in the boat with the murderers; and the boat in which the gang embarked at Gossy [Kishnaghar] had also been got, with two of the boatmen, both of whom confessed that they were present in the boat when the attack was made. All the confessing prisoners agreed in placing Bishonath Chakerbatty and Mohen Koodoo at the head of the gang.—There were nineteen persons confined in irons separately, but all trace of Bishonath Chakerbatty was lost.

The new Magistrate, Mr. M. H. Turnbull, arrived at the station on the evening of the 10th November, and before he had taken charge on the following morning, Bishonath Chkerbatty, delivered himself up to him. Another of the gang likewise came in.—On the 16th November, Bishonath Chkerbatty, and his brother, Ramperasad Chkerbatty, the latter of whom was confined in irons, were admitted to bail; and Cassinath Bannerjee's Mookhtars Mohreer, (Writer,) Raj Kisser Bishes, stood their security in the sum of five hundred Rupees for each.—And the irons were struck off the remaining prisoner.—On the 30th November, the remainder of the prisoners, nineteen in number were likewise admitted to bail, and the said Raj Kisser Bishes, stood security for them also in the sum of one hundred Rupees for each.

It appearing from the confessions, that the plan for the murder was arranged in the Kachery of the new Talookdar, Cassenath Bannerjee, the former Magistrate had summoned him to attend at Kishnaghar, but instead of obeying the summons, he forwarded to the present Magistrate a Mookhtarna only, for another person to attend and act for him, which has been received.

For a considerable time past nothing more has been done in the case in the Nuddea Court, than copying all the proceedings held in that Court; and, the other day, the proceedings in the original, were submitted for the consideration and orders of the Court of Nizamut Adawlut.

The following is an Extract of a letter from the same quarter, which has just come into our hands, announcing another similar atrocity:—

District of Kishnaghar, Dec. 39.—"I am just arrived after my sudden departure, and just at the close of a fatal affray in which a Servant of mine has been killed. After killing him, that he might not be recognised, the villains cut off his head, and now swear he was a comrade of theirs killed by my people. Luckily for us, however, a brother of his was there and has sworn to some marks on his body, which were found to coincide. This will save more necks than one. The Judge has apprehended seven out of fifteen, and ordered the body up to the Station. What will be the result I know not, but if there are not a few dozens of these rascals in this District hanged, as a warning to the rest, I much fear there will soon be more cases than Mr. Imlach's to bewail."—Hark.

Addresses to the Marquess of Hastings.

ADDRESS FROM MADRAS.

To His Excellency the Most Noble Francis, Marquess of Hastings, K. G. and G. C. B. Governor General and Commander in Chief in India, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

We, the undersigned British Inhabitants of Madras, beg leave to approach your Lordship with the expression of our sincere regret at the Loss, which the British Empire in India is about to sustain by your relinquishment of your high Office.

The Talents and Virtues which have distinguished your Lordship's Administration of the Supreme Government during Nine Years, comprehending periods when the Security of the Empire required and elicited a display of the most profound Wisdom combined with the most consummate Military Skill, call for our unfeigned admiration.

We offer your Lordship our hearty Congratulations on the result of that Administration as manifested in the tranquillity of the Country, the general development of its Resources, the flourishing state of the Finances, and the ameliorated condition of the People.

With ardent hope that your Lordship's valuable Life may be extended for the happiness of your Family and for the benefit of our Country.

We have the Honor to be, with the highest Respect,

Your Lordship's faithful humble Servants,

(Signed)

E. Stanley, L. G. K. Murray, J. Cochrane, J. L. Caldwell, T. H. L. Conway, Herbert Compton, Henry Byrne, George Arbuthnot, H. Hodgson, Bengal, C. S., E. Gordon, R. Clarke, Chas. Edw. Grey, Wingham Franklin, Robert Sewell, J. Froudergast, Edward Wood, J. MacDonald, Nath. Webb, F. A. Robson, H. Hall, C. J. Barrow, J. W. Freere, J. M. Strachan, H. Vivian, J. Nimchin, H. Dwyer, E. J. Hunter, C. Randall, P. Whannell, F. Fauquier, J. G. Turnbull, J. Goldingham, R. S. Theselds, G. Laird, W. Childs, J. Nixon, G. O'Connell, T. Hayes,

G. A. Wetherall, J. Campbell, F. Mountford, Rev. W. Thomas, C. Hodgson, Lt. Col. Bombay Regt. Arty., H. Nicholson, W. J. Bradford, T. Hickey, O. Gowan, S. Clark, J. Goldie, R. Bower, C. P. Gordon, W. Oliver, R. Sherson, W. Hadow, T. Blake, A. H. Cole, J. McKeenel, H. Lucas, G. J. Waters, F. B. Garty, R. Greig, W. Harries, E. Bishop, W. Hes, J. McLeod, J. Arathoon, C. Lalonde, R. Richardson, A. E. R. McDonnell, D. Cardogan, W. Maaro, H. C. Dickens, J. Waddell, J. C. Morris, G. E. Russell, D. Hiatt.

My Lord,

Madras, 18th December, 1822.

The British Inhabitants of Madras have requested me to transmit the accompanying Address to your Lordship. In complying with their wish I perform a public Duty in which I gratify my private feelings, and I beg leave to join with them in the Expression of Admiration of the Talents by which your Lordship's long and prosperous Administration has been distinguished, and of regret at its Close.—I have the Honor to be, Your Lordship's most obedient and faithful humble Servant,

(Signed) THOS. MUNRO.

The Most Noble the Marquess of Hastings, K. G. G. C. B. &c. &c.

REPLY OF THE MARQUESS OF HASTINGS.

HONORABLE SIRS AND GENTLEMEN,

I ought to take Pride in the Address with which you have honored me: And I do so. The Testimony borne by you to the extensively beneficial effects of the late Military Operations is decisive from the Advantage afforded by your position for observing them accurately. It is not an usual consequence of War that it shall have bettered the Condition of a Vast Population; while, even in the actual effort of extinguishing the Predatory System which desolated central India, it's traces display no such character of disregard to the Comforts of the Peaceable Inhabitants within the Area of those exertions as too often attends Martial Enterprise. This is an honest Triumph for the British Arms: At the same time the Solidity of what has been achieved for the Interests of our Country is manifested, as you truly observe, by an augmentation of Resources already productive beyond expectation, yet promising still Ampler Supplies to the Honorable Company. I have said that I indulge Pride from the Share which you assign to me in these Successes. Whatsoever Exaggeration there may be in that measurement, the very Exaggeration is a just cause of Pride. I cannot but be vain of enjoying your Partiality in the degree which prompts an over-rated Estimate; therefore I entreat you to accept for such an expression of your Favorable Opinion the unfeigned Gratitude of your faithful and obedient Servant,

Calcutta, Dec. 30, 1822.

(Signed) HASTINGS.

ADDRESS FROM CAWNPORE.

To His Excellency the Most Noble Francis, Marquess of Hastings, K. G. and G. C. B. Governor General of India, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

We the British Inhabitants of the Station and District of Cawnpore beg leave to express to your Lordship our deep and sincere regret at your approaching departure from a Country, which never enjoyed a period of more general and uninterrupted prosperity, than that for which it has been indebted to the Ability and Moderation so eminently displayed during the whole course of your Lordship's long and successful Administration.

To review the great occurrences of the eventful period of your Lordship's rule, or even to recapitulate the leading and most prominent of these achievements, which planned with wisdom and executed with energy, have given an unprecedented Firmness and Stability to this vast dependent Empire, and converted what were previously regarded as contributing to its weakness, into pillars of its Strength, would be a grateful and pleasing, though in us we fear, a presumptuous undertaking.

Measures that have obtained their appropriate Reward in the gratitude of the Millions most deeply interested in their issue, and have been crowned with the applause of our Native Country, we contemplate with admiration which it would be superfluous to express. Still in the course of your Lordship's splendid career, there is one point whereon we may be permitted to dwell with feelings of a peculiar and local interest.

We allude to those humane, prudent and skilful arrangements, whereby this District, together with the rest of the Ceded and Conquered Provinces situated contiguous to the scene of operations, were protected throughout the whole of the late Campaign, not only from Invasion or Disturbance, but even from apprehension or alarm.

We may also be permitted to bear Testimony to the effect of those Events,—and to record, what, placed in the heart of India, we have daily the opportunity of witnessing, namely, the important benefits which your able and judicious administration has conferred upon its inhabitants.

The benefits we contemplate are not confined merely to the deliverance from Oppression of Multitudes of our Fellow Creatures, or to the Comfort and Security, which have been afforded them by the defeat of hostile Native Powers, and the annihilation of those Predatory Hordes, by which India was infested on your Lordship's arrival in this Country; but, they extend also to the manifold Blessings resulting from Mild and Equitable Government, from the Dissemination of Knowledge, from the Establishment of Benevolent and Charitable Institutions, and, in short, comprehend all the Advantages derivable by a People, from the most earnest desire, and the most successful endeavors on the part of our enlightened and beneficent Ruler, to promote their Improvement and Happiness.

In adverting to the Benefits resulting from your Lordship's administration, we should be inefficient in Gratitude, and do injustice to our own feelings, were we to omit mentioning the Regard which your Lordship has evinced for the most important Interests of the European part of the Community, by Public and Private Contributions towards the Building of Churches at several Stations, and especially by your immediate Compliance with the wishes of this Society, in authorizing the erection of suitable places of Public Worship at Cawnpore.

Under these circumstances, permit us, at a moment like the present, to assure your Lordship, that, while we participate in the feelings of admiration and applause, excited throughout the British Empire by your great and splendid Actions, your dignified yet courteous affability has conciliated the esteem and regard of all among us, who have been so fortunate as personally to experience its influence, and that in offering our best wishes for your future prosperity and welfare, it is with sentiments of sincere respect that we subscribe ourselves,

My Lord, your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servants,

Cawnpore, December 3, 1822.

(Signed)

H. G. Christian, R. H. Canliffe, Alex. Orr, H. E. Williams, A. Barnett, J. Brookes, E. C. Browne, D. Harding, A. Arabia, P. Reid, J. E. Wilkinson, J. S. Boldero, C. Bowyer, T. Stoddart, F. Moore, W. H. Valpy, F. Tandy, J. Hay, J. Jarvis, J. Nald, W. W. Bird, A. Bannernean, W. Lloyd, G. King, M. R. Dan, St. J. Blacker, T. Ambrose, C. S. Fagan, W. Wright, J. W. Miller, J. D. Parsons, A. Smith, R. Stuart, H. Mackintosh, T. Reynolds, H. Glasgow, R. Foley, J. A. Greenway, J. Mackintosh, C. Lawrence, E. Hall, R. Stark, G. Oliphant, R. Chalmers, R. Grant, W. A. Venour, T. C. Robertson, D. Marshall, Lieutenant General W. Clough, J. Measures, G. J. Shadwell, W. P. Welland, G. J. Johnson, J. Kinloch, R. Kemball, W. Merton, J. Johnston, J. C. Cothart, J. A. Grant, T. S. Madsen, R. A. Walker, J. L. Jones, R. Dickson, J. Charteris, J. P. Wade, W. Palmer, T. S. Oliver, J. Tannan, L. Thomas, Maj. Gen. I. Mailing, O. Reddie, J. H. Cav, D. Pullar, M. D. H. V. Voysey, G. F. Brown, C. Marshall, R. Home, J. Home, J. Cotrin, J. M. Sinclair, T. Luxmore, H. Orde, W. H. Orde, W. Greenway, W. L. Bird, W. Brooks, P. Mathew, W. Limonds, G. Vansetti, G. Irvine, J. Cartwright.

REPLY OF THE MARQUESS OF HASTINGS.

To the Gentlemen Subscribers to the Address from Cawnpore.

GENTLEMEN,

Be pleased to accept my grateful Acknowledgments for the Honor conferred upon me by your Address. Cawnpore is too well known by me to allow my receiving with Indifference so obliging a Compliment. I meet it, indeed, with every Cordial Feeling. It touches a String which vibrates to it acutely when you mention the augmented Prosperity of the Neighbouring Countries.—Your central Position enables you to Command precise information; so that you cannot be deceived in the pleasing picture which you present. When you reflect how much of the preparation was with admirable Secrecy and Efficiency fashioned at Cawnpore for the Enterprise which has proved in its result so beneficial to Humanity, you are entitled to view with Superior Complacency the Comforts you portray. I thank you warmly for the Credit which you allot to me in the Operation; And I earnestly pray that each of you may long enjoy the elevating contemplation of that Security against Rapine and Oppression which he has Contributed to bestow upon Millions.—I have the Honor, Gentlemen, to be Your Faithful and Obedient Servant,

(Signed)

HASTINGS.

ADDRESS FROM SINGAPORE.

To the Most Noble Francis, Marquess of Hastings, K. G. G. C. B. &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

We the undersigned European and Asiatic Inhabitants of Singapore embrace the occasion of your Lordship's approaching departure for your Native Country to join in the Common Expression of admiration which your Lordship's Public Services have called for from your sovereign and your country, and which have been re-echoed in this

part of the Globe wherever the British name is known. We are, above all, proud in behalf of our country. Of the pure example which your Lordship's personal and public conduct has exhibited among distant Strangers of British humanity and Generosity throughout your long administration.

Our peculiar gratitude is due to your Lordship as Inhabitants of a Settlement which is the first recorded example of a truly free Commerce. The rapid and unparalleled prosperity of this Establishment planned under your Lordship's auspices, and maintained against jealous Rivalry by the Vigor and firmness of your Councils, attest the wisdom of your views. You found it, less than four years ago, a village of a Couple of Hundred idle Malayan fishermen, and it is now a Colony of 10,000 industrious inhabitants collected from every quarter, and living together in peace and harmony under the magic Auspices of that freedom and those principles which your Lordship has established and confirmed.

We respectfully take leave of your Lordship, hoping you may enjoy in the bosom of your Family and your Country, all the Happiness and all the Honors which should be the Reward of a life passed in the Common Service of Humanity and your Country.—We are, with the utmost respect, My Lord, Your Lordship's Most Obedient, Devoted, Humble Servants,

(Signed)

T. S. Raffles, W. Farquhar, Resid. W. Pitt, P. J. Bernard. C. Queiros, J. Brown, R. P. Reed, S. G. Bonham, H. Fawcett, E. P. Watts, P. P. Morgan, C. E. Davis, W. Montgomerie, P. Jackson, N. Wallich, M. D. T. Farris, G. W. Bonham, P. Dangesfield, J. Crawford, G. Finlayson, A. C. MacLean, W. Rutherford, T. Prendergast, W. Storm, W. Scott, W. M. Wilson, J. S. Clark, W. Stewart, J. A. Max, J. Sutherland, J. Salmond, A. Hay, A. Farquhar, L. Hall Revd. S. Milton, Rev. C. H. Thompson, T. Murray, C. Ryan, T. Farquhar, J. Marlin, J. Ballock, J. Brisco, J. Dolge, W. Campbell, P. Singer, Scoltan Mahmood Shah, and several other Asiatic Seals and Signatures.

REPLY OF THE MARQUESS OF HASTINGS.

HONORABLE SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

Accept my Sincere Thanks for the obliging Address with which you have honored me. It is flattering to the honest Feelings which give to each of us a Pride in the Character of this Government, that you are enabled to assure me the object and mode of effecting the recent extensive Changes, in Central India, have been justly understood.—If the States in your Neighbourhood shall be satisfied, that we did make War, but thro' imperious necessity, and did not urge our Successes beyond that the Exigency required, the Moderation most Command their Confidence, and will thence advance the Commercial Interests of our Country, while it exalts her Reputation.

The description you give of the surprisingly rapid increase of Population at Singapore is an exhilarating proof of that Confidence; since nothing could induce Settlers to flock thither from other Quarters but their sense of the Security and Superior advantage which they would enjoy under British Rule. That the prosperity of Singapore may be permanent, and that it may in a special degree attach upon you, Honorable Sir, as well as upon each of those who joined you in conferring on me the Honor which I am acknowledging, is the fervent wish of

You Most Obedient and Humble Servant,

(Signed)

HASTINGS.

Stations of Vessels in the River.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 5, 1823.

At Diamond Harbour.—H. C. S. COLDSTREAM,—MOIRA, and PERELOPE (F.) passed down.

Kedgeres.—His Majesty's Frigate GLASGOW,—GENERAL LECOR, P. and GOLCONDA, outward-bound, remain.—GOVERNOR PHILLIPS, (brig), proceeded down.—JAMES DRUMMOND, passed down.—The Government Yacht with Lord and Lady Hastings on board, anchored at Kedgeres on the evening of the 4th instant.

New Anchorage.—H. C. Ships GENERAL HEWITT, THAMES, WARREN HASTINGS, MARCHIONESS OF ELY, WINCHELSEA, and DORSETSHIRE.

Sauger.—BENGAL MERCHANT, ELIZABETH, MARY ANN, CALCUTTA, and MINSTER, below Sauger, outward bound, remain.—MAITLAND, MATILDA, CARRON, VENUS, and NANCY (F.), gone to Sea.

The Brig PALLAS, Captain Hamilton, is expected to sail for New South Wales, in a day or two.

The MARQUIS OF HASTINGS arrived off Calcutta on Sunday.

Sporting Intelligence.

CALCUTTA MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1823.

The 2nd year of a renewal of the Oak Stakes of 25 Gold Mohurs each, for country bred Fillies, 8st. 4lbs.—T. T.—Four Subscribers.

Mr. Walter's gr. *Fancy*, by *Painter*, (Tom Wyley.)

Captain O'Kelly's b. *Mocking Bird*.

Mr. Black's named Mr. Partridge's *Amelia* by *Rubicon*,

The 1st year of a renewal of the Trial Stakes of 100 Gold Mohurs each, two miles.—Horses that never started in Bengal before December 1821.—2 years a feather, for three 7st. 4lbs.—Pear, 8st. 4lbs.—Five, 8st. 11lbs.—Six, 9st. 1lb., and aged, 9st. 5lbs.—Horses that have won in Bengal 1821, to carry 7lb. extra.—Mares &c. allowed 3lbs.—Country bred and Cape allowed 10lbs.—Four Subscribers.

Mr. Treves's named Mr. Thompson's *Blus Bell*, by *Sorcerer*, 6 years old, (J. Fox.)

Mr. Walter's named Mr. Berwick's br. h. *Canonade*, by *Snowflake* 5 years old.

Mr. Black's named Mr. Robert's b. m. *Sophia* by *Poulton*, 6 years old.

Mr. O'Kelly's ch. h. *Brutus*, by *Rubens*, 6 years old.

There never was a Race that excited more interest than this in consequence of the high betting, and the supposed equality of all the Horses.—A fine start: *Canonade* and *Sophia* taking the lead and making great play until they came to the Hospital, where *Blus Bell* closed upon them, and won cleverly.—Time 3m. 52s. Even on *Canonade*, against the field, 2 to 1 against *Sophia*, and 3 to 1 against the winner.

Sweepstake of 25 Gold Mohurs each, for Arabs that never won—one mile and a half.—Calcutta weight for age—Five Subscribers.

Mr. James's *Silver Heels*, 4 years old, (J. Fox.)

Captain O'Kelly's b. c. *Jem Crack*.

Mr. Robert's named Mr. Berwick's gr. f. *Corinthian Kate*, 3 years old. —'s ch. *Daylight*, 6 years old.

Sweepstakes for 2 years old country bred, 8st.—50 Gold Mohurs each.—h. ft.—C. Y.—Three Subscribers.

Mr. Berwick's named Mr. Black's gr. e. "The Student" by *Uncle Toby*, (S. Frost)

Mr. Robert's ch. c. *Gold Dust*, by *Benedict* out of *Talarium*.

Captain O'Kelly's b. c. *Acadropis*, by *Uncle Toby*.

MATCH FOR 25 GOLD MOHURS.—H. M.

Mr. Walter's gr. A. h. *Jusab*, (Tom) } 7st. 7lbs. each.

Mr. Black's b. p. *Fantail*, }

Captain O'Kelly's b. A. h. *Jem Crack*, 7st. 7lbs. received forfeit from Mr. James's gr. A. h. *Huckerbookah*, 8st. 7lbs.—100 Gold Mohurs.—F. F.—R. C.

Mr. Walter's ch. c. *Impromptu*, 8st. 7lbs. received 35 compromise from Captain O'Kelly's *Jusab Macacco*, 8st. 4lbs.—H. M.

Mr. Black's *Windfall*, 8st. received forfeit from Mr. Walter's *Impromptu*, 8st. 7lbs.—R. C. for 100 Gold Mohurs.—H. F.

Administrations to Estates.

Miss Margaret Tytler, late of Monghyr, deceased—John Tytler, Esq. of the same place.

Mr. William Alexander Newton, late of Fort St. George, Merchant, deceased—Edward Augustus Newton, Esq.

Marriages.

On the 6th instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Reverend D. CORRIE, DANIEL JOHNSON, Esq. of Jessore, to SOPHIA, Daughter of Mr. G. CRANLEY, of Calcutta.

On the 1st instant, Mr. WILLIAM PRESTON, Junr. to Mrs. HARRIET ANNA LAWRENCE.

Births.

At the Presidency, on the 6th instant, the Lady of GEORGE WARD, Esq. Surgeon on the Bengal Medical Establishment, of a Daughter.

On the 5th instant, Mrs. C. W. LAMBERT, of a Daughter.

On the 5th instant, the Wife of Mr. W. H. PAINTE, of a Daughter.

At Chinnurah, on the 5th instant, Mrs. W. VAN'THART, of a Daughter.

On the 1st instant, Mrs. J. MURRAY, of a Daughter.